

NEWS

One hundred and seventy-eight liverymen, partners and friends attended the Musicians' Midsummer Banquet, held for the fifth successive year in the splendour of Drapers' Hall. The toast to the guests was made by Junior Warden David Hill, and John Suchet replied. One of the UK's best-known television journalists – an ITN reporter for many years; TV Journalist of the Year in 1986; TV

Newscaster of the Year in 1996; now presenter of ITN's Lunchtime News – David Suchet spoke about his trilogy on the life of Beethoven, completed in November 1998. (Of which the *Daily Telegraph* has written: "You will learn more about Beethoven from John Suchet's book than from any professorial essay.") Music was by the choral group Seventh Heaven, whose repertoire ranged from madrigals to jazz.



Left to right: Harold Berns, Mrs Nicholas Plane, the Rt Hon Lord Armstrong of Ilinster, Lady Armstrong, The Master, Mrs Malcolm Troup, Junior Warden David Hill, Mrs David Hill, Mrs John Suchet, John Suchet, Mrs Harold Berns, Nicholas Playne, Master of the Drapers' Company



Left to right: John Suchet whets his whistle with the Loving Cup before proving yet again that there's no such thing as a free dinner, let alone a lunch; The Master holds his audience every bit as effectively as the Ancient Mariner; and, at the close of the evening, Seventh Heaven comes down to earth with something to please everyone



Unfair to single-out Mrs Harold Berns, of course, when (as usual) just about everyone had trouble rediscovering the joys of the Loving Cup procedure. Remind me: do you cover your back and guard the cup, or cover the cup and guard your back? Oops, nearly forgot to use the napkin!