

# THE BEETHOVEN PIANO COMPETITION

## FIRST AWARD OF A NEW MEDAL

By Malcolm Miller, Secretary,  
Beethoven Piano Society of Europe.

THE WINNER OF THE 1994 Intercollegiate Beethoven Piano Competition, held on 16 December at the Austrian Institute, was Polina Chersonskaja, of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music. The Master, Adrian Davis, presented her with the new silver medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians. She also received the £250 Bosendorfer Prize from Alfred Brendel, President of the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe which organised the event, as well as a series of recitals across Europe.

The distinguished jury, Kendall Taylor CBE, Professor Malcolm Troup (Musicians' Court member), and Alberto Portugheis, chose Miss Chersonskaja, who performed the Sonata in E flat Op. 81a 'Les Adieux', from nine winners of Beethoven prizes in the major UK conservatories. Simon Mulligan (RAM), 'Eroica' Variations, Op. 35, and Stephen de Pledge (GSMD), Sonata in F minor Op. 57 'Appassionata', received second and third prizes.

This Competition is a unique event in the musical calendar. It was initiated by the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe to encourage Beethoven interpretation of the very highest standard, as well as to nurture young pianistic talent in Britain. It held the first Piano Competition in 1993. As the prize was not awarded, Polina Chersonskaja is its first ever winner.

Born in 1970 in Barnaul, Siberia, she started learning the piano at the age of five and studied at the Lithuanian Music Academy where she graduated in 1994. She received a Headley Trust Bursary to study at the Royal Scottish Academy under Philip Jenkins. A participant in numerous masterclasses with artists such as L. Vlasenko, Vladimir Ashkenazy, and Esther Yellin in Zurich, she has given concerts in Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Israel, and won the Special Award for the best interpretation of Prokofiev and Shostakovich in the First International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg in 1992.



Professor Malcolm Troup, Polina Chersonskaja, Kendall Taylor CBE and The Master.

## THE COMPANY DIARY to October 1995

### ITEMS IN BLUE ITALICS DENOTE LIVERY CLUB EVENTS

- 29 March The First Master's Invitation Lunch.
- 30 March Maisie Lewis Recital.
- 31 March United Guilds Service.
- 3 May *President's Evening.*
- 17 May The Second Master's Invitation Lunch.
- 31 May Maisie Lewis 25th Anniversary  
CELEBRATION CONCERT and Supper.
- 21 June Midsummer Banquet.
- 26 June Common Hall – Election of Sheriffs.
- July *Gala Evening at GSMD.*
- 2 July Jazz Medal Concert.
- 13 Sept Livery Luncheon, *Livery Club AGM.*
- 29 Sept Common Hall – Election of the Lord Mayor.
- Oct Maisie Lewis Recital.

Please note: During this period, the Master will be holding two further Invitation Lunches.

## THE LIVERY CLUB

Like the Company, the Livery Club has been examining its role and organisation. The first major change was the adjustment to membership fees, which ensured that all new Liverymen became members on the payment of one fixed fee along with their Company Fine. Subsequent upon the initiative of the Immediate Past President, Laurie Goodwin, certain changes were proposed and discussed at the AGM on 13 September 1994 of which the minutes have been circulated.

Proposals were drawn up and presented to the Court for consideration at its meeting on 19 January 1995. The decision whereby all new Liverymen automatically became members of the Club has led to a need for rationalisation and simplification of the Club structure.

The primary objectives of the Club have been defined as providing social and educational events in addition to those of the Company. It is required to remain totally self financing, other than the receipt of the allocated admission fines, and to maintain separate books of account which are independently audited annually.

The Club will be managed by a new Committee of the Court to be known as the President's Committee. This will take over the present functions of the Social Committee and will be made up as follows:

- President
- President Elect
- Master
- Senior Warden
- Chairman of the Maisie Lewis Committee
- Member of the Jazz Committee
- Member of the Public Relations Committee

It will be supported by both the Clerk, who will be in attendance at meetings, and the Treasurer of the Company.

The Committee will also be responsible for selecting a President Elect for election at the AGM at least one year prior to the President's retirement. This selection will be subject to approval of the Master and Wardens Committee.

It is also accepted that it may be desirable for the President to be ex. officio in attendance at Court Meetings if he is not a member of the Court in his own right.