

# Preserve Harmony



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## NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MUSICIANS

### EDITORIAL

#### Signs of the Times

**FROM BEING** a relatively poor Guild, the last few years have seen significant increases in our funds such that we can assist the Art and Science of Music more than ever before.

This process was demonstrated by the recent presentation of the first Medal for Jazz. The latest increases and additions to the Company awards makes the current List outdated and due for revision.

New challenges are continuing to exercise the minds of the Court. Now that Ladies have been admitted to the Livery, how should guidelines, if any, be made for guests at functions? It is a matter of fact that having agonised over such matters at the end of the last war, the Feltmakers admitted their first lady liveryman in January 1991!

Sir Alexander Graham, the previous Lord Mayor, questioned the relevance of any institution which unreasonably places a gender bar on its membership. Continuing to keep the ranks closed can only perpetuate public confusion as to what really goes on within these companies.

Other issues embrace the rising cost of our dinners and functions. Would it be a pity to economise on such well established events? Now that the Social Committee has been formed, the matter can be considered in depth and various proposals laid before the Court. Younger members of the Wheelwrights formed a committee and held a Ball at Grosvenor House - and raised over £12,000 for a wheelchair project!

With greater awareness in the achievements of our Company, following significant benefaction in recent years, opportunities exist for us to increase our stature perhaps in association with other supporters of the Performing Arts.



Photo: Rita Castle

Liverymen Sir David Lumsden and Jeffrey Lockett with Roderick Watkins

## The Priaulx Rainier Fund

**Roderick Watkins, a composition student at the Royal Academy of Music has been nominated by the Principal, Sir David Lumsden, to receive the Priaulx Rainier Prize. He was presented with a cheque for £400 by Pastmaster Jeffery Lockett for his composition, "Five in Accord".**

It is awarded in alternate years at the University of Capetown and the Royal Academy of Music. The 1989/90 award - the first under the terms of Miss Rainier's will - was made in South Africa.

After the annual award, limited to £400, the income of the Fund is to be applied to recitals of contemporary music (including occasionally that of Priaulx Rainier herself) by young artists under the age of thirty. The estimated income for 1992 will be in the order of £7,000 after taking the annual prize into account.

In 1991, the award was made to Redcliffe Concerts to assist with the production of a compact disc - an innovative idea within the concept - of Priaulx Rainier's music. The disc will be issued early this year and a number made available to the Company.

This year, the Court has accepted a proposed project from the Society for the Promotion of New Music to introduce larger numbers of young people to the performance of contemporary music. This would include the commissioning of pieces by four young composers. The project embraces rehearsal and coaching sessions and will culminate in a workshop during the SPNM's 50th Anniversary Weekend in January 1993.