

Preserve Harmony



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NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MUSICIANS

masterprize

...the most important contemporary Public Relations commitment undertaken by the Company.

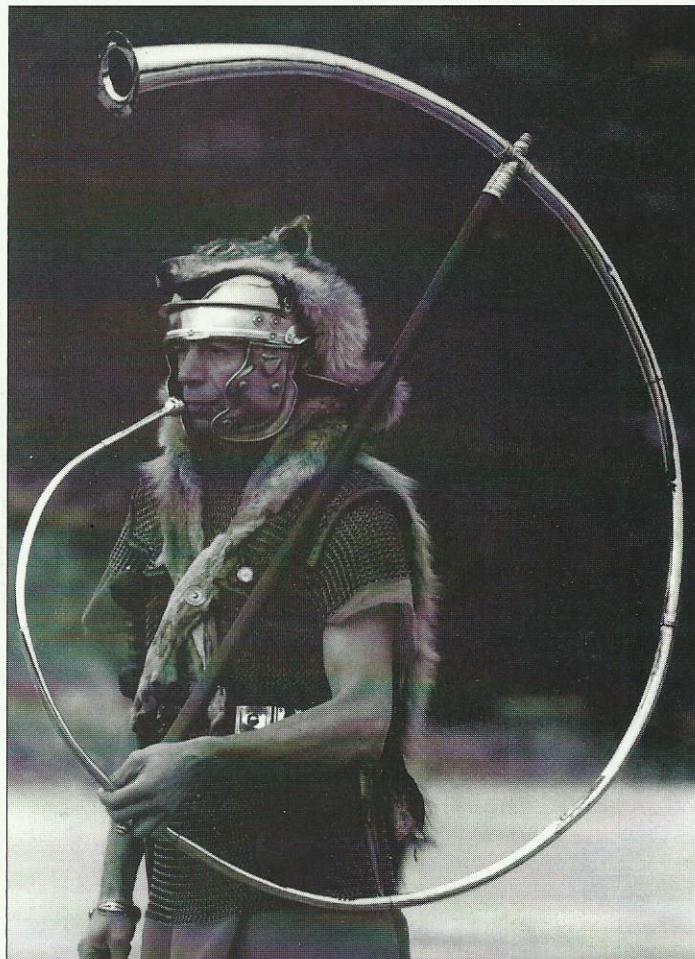
Masterprize is set to become the world's leading competition for the composition of classical music. With a first prize of £25,000 and the collaboration of international music institutions, it aims to find a new and original work for symphony orchestra with the power to communicate to a broad range of music-lovers and hence establish a lasting appeal.

The partners in Masterprize are BBC Radio 3, EMI, the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Music Magazine, BBC World Service, Audio Note and the Worshipful Company of Musicians – the only Livery Company to be involved. The patron is Mstislav Rostropovitch and the Chairman and founder is John McLaren, a director of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. Assistant Sir Alan Traill who leads our Quincentennial Committee and Assistant Dr. John Hosier who chairs the Working Party on the Future of the Company have close involvement.

This unprecedented collaboration in the cause of new music will offer Masterprize finalists unrivalled exposure. From the works entered, a short list of fifteen will be recorded by BBC orchestras and broadcast on BBC Radio 3 during the autumn of 1997. A prestigious international panel will then choose the six finalists whose work will be recorded by the LSO under Daniel Harding. In what will become the most widely distributed disc of newly composed classical music to date, the CD will be released as a cover-mount to BBC Music Magazine. This alone will come to an estimated 200,000-300,000 copies. Additionally, discussions are currently in progress with a number of overseas publications to carry the CD cover-mount.

Next spring, BBC Radio 3 will broadcast each piece an equal number of times in key programmes. As well as world-wide broadcasts, more than 20 countries through the European Broadcasting Union have expressed a keen interest in participating. The public will also be invited to vote for their preference which will be kept secret until the final concert.

On 7th April 1998, Masterprize will culminate in a gala concert at the Barbican, at which the LSO conducted by Daniel Harding will perform the six finalist works in the presence of a celebrity jury. At the



'Blowing our own trumpet!' Photo: Clare Arron.

conclusion of the concert, the public and jury vote will be amalgamated with that of the orchestra, and the overall result announced.

To date there has been an extensive world-wide build up of media interest with considerable copy published and interviews broadcast.

As part of our Quincentennial Celebrations, the Company will also commission a work from the highest positioned composer in the final adjudication, who will be under the age of 30 on the gala concert date. This will be worth £10,000. In addition to the Masterprize award, the piece will, subject to final confirmation, receive a public broadcast via the BBC, a major concert performance by the LSO and a performance at a Promenade Concert in the 2000 Season.

The work will take its inspiration from the words 'Preserve Harmony' – the title of our newsletter.