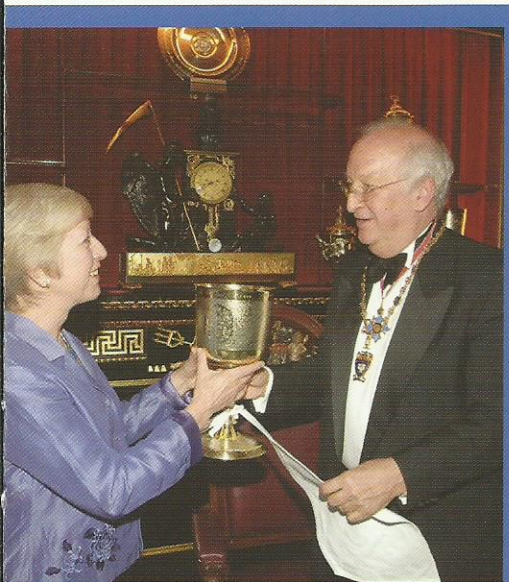


William Lloyd Webber – A Celebration



Susan Tomes with the Master



endi, Heleen Mendi-Schrama and Ursula Jones

William Lloyd Webber (1914-1982), the father of Andrew and Julian, was himself an organist of great distinction, a teacher and latterly Director of the London College of Music. He was a Liveryman of the Musicians' Company from 1947 until his death and was Master from 1973-4. He was also an accomplished composer, although for the last twenty five years of his life, he composed little except occasional church music, apparently feeling that his music which grew out of a romantic tradition was no longer in step with the prevailing climate. Instead, he concentrated on teaching at the Royal College of Music and in 1964 he accepted the Directorship of the London College of Music (now part of Thames Valley University).

The evening, which was attended by Julian Lloyd Webber and partially sponsored by the Musicians' Company, was part of an effort led by Stephen Jones, Musical Director and Founder of the City Chamber Choir, and Jonathan Cooke to stimulate interest in William Lloyd Webber's music. David Mellor was an amusing and articulate narrator and guided the audience through a programme, which in addition to William Lloyd Webber's music, included works by composers who were particular sources of inspiration such as César Franck, Liszt, Rachmaninov and Elgar. William's friendship with Herbert Howells, who was Julian's godfather and proposed William for the Musicians' Company, was represented by two songs. William's music in the concert ranged from excerpts from major choral works (including the whole of the moving *Missa Sanctae Mariae Magdaleneae* composed near the end of his life) to three light and witty piano pieces (one in honour of a cat called Perseus) and a beautiful setting of a poem by W H

Davies: *The Moon*.

We were told that towards the end of his life, William had said: 'If I go to heaven, all I want is a great organ with millions of pipes, and, of course, my two cats'. Despite his many achievements, Julian felt that his father's great disappointment was not to have realised what he considered his potential as a composer. This thoroughly enjoyable and revealing concert showed how unjustified his apparent lack of belief in his own music was. For any reader interested in hearing some of William Lloyd Webber's music, there is a very good CD: 'Music of William Lloyd Webber'. Artists include John Lill, Philip Dukes, Richard Hickox and Julian Lloyd Webber and the CD is produced by ASV Ltd, I Beaumont Avenue, London W14 9LP.

Pastmaster Francis Carnwath

CCC
city chamber choir

David Mellor introduces:
William Lloyd Webber
— A Celebration

William Lloyd Webber
The Divine Compassion
(excerpts), Missa Sanctae
Mariae Magdaleneae, The
Moon, organ and piano works

Edward Elgar
Part songs Op. 53

Herbert Howells
Part songs

Franz Liszt
Pater Noster

David Mellor narrator
Stephen Jones conductor
Jeremy Filzell organ and piano

7.30 pm, Friday 25 May 2007
St Sepulchre-without-Newgate,
Holborn Viaduct, London EC1

Supported by the Worshipful Company of Musicians and the Music Revival Trust
Tickets £10 (£7 concessional) on the door or in advance from John Stevens 07531 788797
Registered Charity No. 298132 President: Bob Chislett www.citychamber.org.uk
City Chamber Choir is a member of Making Music www.makingmusic.org.uk

City Chamber Choir

In the main, the Clerk briefs them individually when they are on duty but what are the personal qualities required from the Stewards during their year of office? As they tend to be the welcoming face of the Company on all public occasion (thereby releasing the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their many formal duties), the ability to avoid the vagaries of London Transport and to arrive on time, together with a warm smile are essential, as are strong arms, the Livery gowns having to be collected after functions and folded up for the Beadle. They act as assistants in any tasks which arise but

thankfully, when the formal part of any function is over, they may put down their wands, though it is not always easy to do this without noise, especially if it is on a wooden floor! And a former Steward reminded me that he made himself indispensable at Company functions by ensuring that the Master's glass was always near to hand and properly filled.

To serve as a Steward is not only a marvellous insight into how the Company works but a real privilege to be able to see how the various strands combine and of course it is a chance to meet individually those musicians, both young and more

distinguished, whom the Company has honoured with a prize or an award.

Friendships are formed and often one sees groups of people together in later years who turn out to have been Stewards together – for the four Stewards form a bond with and support each other throughout their year – and there is the marvellous lunch at the end of their term of office, when they are allowed to entertain the Clerk and Deputy Clerk and learn how well (or not!) they have performed their duties.

Long may they reign!
Liveryman Judith Rich