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Diary 2004

8-May	Livery Club Visit to Waddesdon Manor All day
13-June	Jazz at Pizza on the Park 7.30pm
23-June	Midsummer Banquet Mansion House 6.15pm
21-July	Livery Club Summer Concert at Kneller Hall 7.50pm
7-Sep	Barrett Lunch
14-Sep	Bach Cantata details to follow
6-Oct	Choral Evensong St Paul's 5pm
10-Nov	Installation Dinner at Merchant Taylors' Hall 6.30pm
29-Nov	Maisie Lewis Concert at Wigmore Hall 7.30pm
15-Dec	Carol Service St Michael's Cornhill 6.00pm

Entering the Profession

The October 2004 Musicians' Company Professional Musicians Advisory Panel Seminar reported by Assistant Peter Fowler

The meeting was arranged by Assistant Leslie East, Chairman of PMAP at the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Headquarters in Portland Place. The venue was ideal for the occasion with five past Award Winners and twelve members of the Livery being present including the Master, Nigel Tully, the Senior Warden, Jonathan Rennert, the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk. The attendance of only five Award Winners was somewhat disappointing, but Anna Meredith, composer and Lambert Award winner, Oliver Searle also a composer, Michiko Kobayashi violinist, Katherine Jenkinson 'cellist' and Christopher George pianist were very appreciative and entered into the spirit of the meeting raising various topics and gaining much advice and help.

Assistant Leslie East gave a brief history of PMAP and introduced the three speakers. It was appropriate that Past Master Prof. Malcolm Troup was present as he, together with Philip Jones and John Hosier, were responsible for setting up the Panel for the Company's musicians actively involved in the music business.

The first speaker was Chris Green, representing the British Association of Composers and Songwriters. He stated that there are three thousand members ranging from classical to popular composers and songwriters. The Association plays a leading role in lobbying the Government on such topics as the Licensing and Communications Bill and it has close contacts with other professional bodies. BACS is responsible for staging such events as the Ivor Novello awards, Best Song of the Year and Classical Music Awards. The services to members include business advice, publishing, insurance agreements, arrangements for broadcasting, social aspects and has a special interest in advising young composers. A new composers' magazine 'Four by Four' is now being produced several times a year.

The choice of the topic 'entering the

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profession' was most appropriate for the meeting. The young composer has no defined career pathway and finds it particularly difficult to become known, but openings are possible through various avenues such as writing music for Conservatoire musicians and getting the music performed and recorded and then sending recordings and scores to various bodies concentrating on openings for new composers. Composers should also look out for residences.

Fiona Harvey represented the Association of British Orchestras. ABO was set up fifty years ago and amongst its aims is to negotiate salaries, give advice to professional orchestras and lobby the Government. There are annual conferences, training courses for administrators and managers and advice is available on marketing, funding, finance and I.T. The Association also gives help to young musicians setting out on their professional careers and working for Music in the Community.

It was noted that the Musicians Benevolent Fund has a website listing available scholarships and awards and advice on commissions. When applying, young composers should aim at recording their works on compact discs, compiling a list of their works and sending an up-to-date c.v. to selected professional bodies and agents. It is surprising