

Preserve Harmony



ISSUE 7 September 1993

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NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MUSICIANS



The Master Elect, Tony Pool and his wife, Julie, daughter Suzie and son Ralph.
Photo: Photo Craft (Hampstead) Ltd.

THE MASTER ELECT

THE MASTER ELECT, Tony Pool, is a born and bred Londoner and has been involved with the music business virtually all his life, chiefly as a result of the marriage of his mother's older sister to Ralph Hawkes of the well known musical company Boosey & Hawkes. There was no immediate family connection with music, but, as with most children at school, piano lessons were in order and, although under the influence at school of Pastmaster Leonard Halcrow, he was never particularly skilled but did keep up piano playing as a hobby later. He continues to indulge in this pastime at home but, as he admits, "strictly for my own and no one else's - least of all my family's - pleasure."

Following the early death of Ralph Hawkes, he was apprenticed to Ralph's brother, Geoffrey (Pastmaster Hawkes), and was admitted to the Livery under Pastmaster Evelyn Boosey. He went to work in the publishing division of Boosey & Hawkes and feels especially honoured that the old relationship between the Company and his employers enables them to provide a new Master after a lapse of some thirty years.

Throughout his working life he has been especially interested in the legal and administrative side of the music publishing business and thinks it is most appropriate that there should be such a close relationship between the Musicians' Company and the Stationers, who, over the years, have been in the forefront of the protection of copyright, particularly in relation to authors' rights. He has

served on the Council of the Performing Rights Society, and continues with the Music Publishers Association, of which he served for three years as President, and of the Mechanical Copyright Protection Society Limited.

Of his forthcoming year as Master he says, "I have the privilege of serving the Company following previous masters who have been most effective in raising the profile and influence of the Company in ways that I cannot hope to emulate, let alone surpass. I am most anxious that the modernisation process which they initiated shall be continued, but I should not wish the traditions that have been developed over so many years should be totally forgotten. The time has come to take stock of where we are in the run up to the anniversary celebrations that we shall be planning for the Millennium."

HONORARY FREEDOM

A few months ago at a reception hosted by the British Federation of Festivals for Music Dance and Speech, the Master, John Iles was introduced to Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Kent.

As some of our Livery will know, her musical interests are both many and varied such that we can only mention some of them here.

A random selection reveals that her gracious Patronage embraces the Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship, the BBC Young Musician of the Year and the Yehudi Menuhin School for talented children. She is President of the Royal Northern College of Music, the centenary of which by a happy coincidence, features in this issue. As a personal recreation, she is also a member of the Bach Choir and as might therefore be expected, her Patronage also extends to the Choir Schools Association.

We are therefore especially delighted that Her Royal Highness has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Court to become an Honorary Freeman of the Company in October, even more so as her admission this year coincides with the 50th Anniversary of that in which the late Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent similarly honoured our Company.

Tony's wife, Julie, who is an American from Philadelphia, is a therapist in specific learning difficulties but has inherited, through her stepfather, a background in music publishing - they met, in fact, for the first time at an industry cocktail party, the first and only occasion, so far as is known, that the American Music Publishers Association had acted as Cupid. She looks forward to supporting Tony in the responsibilities of his year of office.

Tony and Julie are the parents of two children, Suzie, 19, who is due to start University in October and shows signs of being a reasonably competent musician and Ralph, 17, who is studying for his A-Levels.