



Offering best wishes to my successor.

Photo: Michael Machalepis

too often they were unimaginative; those responsible seemed to be afraid of producing something above the heads of their audiences and the result was rather second-rate. I was not disappointed though in my choice of musicians for our own dinners; in particular I was very glad that Julia Mocioc, a Romanian student at the Guildhall whom my wife and I have been trying to help, was able to play for the Installation Dinner. Neither was I disappointed in my choice of speakers at the dinners, and in particular I was glad to welcome Admiral Sir James Eberle; I have long known him on the beagling field, but he is also very well known in diplomatic circles.

Then there was a great variety of miscellaneous City functions; breakfast (fortunately not too early) with the Gardeners at HAC, promoting the Lord Mayor's cycle ride in aid of his charity; the AGM of the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund at the Old Bailey; visits to several schools connected with the City; and many similar events.

There were quite a number of concerts and prizegivings at various schools and Colleges of Music, both civil and military; perhaps the most memorable was an evening at Kneller Hall, where the co-ordination of music and fireworks was remarkable.

I have deliberately

made little mention her of Company activities, since these will be more familiar to readers of Preserve Harmony: they are of course the most important aspect of the Master's life and take up a great deal of his time. I think that the Livery by now has a fairly good idea of the amount and variety of work put in by the many Company Committees and the Clerk's office, but this is really brought home to you when you are Master; I would like here to record my thanks to the Clerk and to Margaret for the help and support they gave me during my year. I also received support and advice from several members of the Court, for which I was grateful.

There were, as always, a number of special occasions during the year, and I would like to mention two: the granting of the Honourary Freedom of the Company to Harrison Birtwistle, and the unveiling of a Blue Plaque to Constant Lambert. There are many other events, like the success of the Maisie Lewis concerts, which I would like to mention, but I have almost reached the limit on length imposed by the Editors, and I should end by saying how glad I was to be able to entertain a number of Members of the Company at Lacock in the summer; the weather co-operated splendidly, and I think that everyone who came enjoyed themselves.



Unfinished business; on stage at Symphony Hall, in January 1998, after the British Open, postponed from September because of the funeral of Princess Diana. Presenting the Iles Medal to James Williams, with Gordon Evans MBE, who received the Mortimer Medal, seated behind and right, Mrs Margaret Mortimer, Silver Medallist and Organiser.

Photo: Studio Tristan

SPECIAL AWARDS COMMITTEE

At their last meeting in January, the following recommendations were accepted by the Court.

CHARLES SANTLEY MEMORIAL GIFT

Johanna Peters and John Tomlinson were chosen from a list of proposed candidates.

They will be invited to choose their own gift to a value of £350 each and be invited with their partners to a Court Dinner during the year.

PERCIVAL HART FUND

The following grants were agreed for the year;

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| Manchester Mid-Day Concerts | £500 |
| Clonter Farm Music Trust | £1000 |
| National Opera Studio | £500 |

WALTER WILLSON COBBETT MEDAL

From six names considered, Professor David Takeno, Head of Strings at Guildhall School of Music, was selected.

PRIAULX RAINER FUND

It was agreed to propose to the Court that it would be most suitable for the Priaulx Rainer's name to be linked with the Company's commission to celebrate our Quincentenary. A young composer will be chosen from the six finalists of Masterprize and the piece will be entitled Preserve Harmony. A special donation of £12,000, will therefore be made to the Musicians Company Foundation for Young Musicians.

DONATIONS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

It was agreed to recommend the following appeals to the Court:

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| The Lord Mayor's Appeal | £750 |
| City of London Freeman's School | £250 |
| Centre for Young Musicians | £3,000 |
| St George in the East | £3,000 |
| Spitalfields Music Festival | £1,000 |
| Clonter Opera | £1,000 |
| Mornington Trust | £250 |
| Music in Hospitals | £500 |
| Koestler Award Trust | £250 |
| London String Quartet Foundation | £500 |
| Sir George Thalben-Ball Mem.Trust | £250 |
| Oxford Bach Choir | £500 |
| Safe Ground | £500 |