

Preserve Harmony



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NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MUSICIANS

THE MASTER ELECT

THE MASTER ELECT is the eldest son of Sir Andrew Carnwath, who was Master in 1981. His sister, Felicity Guinness and one of his brothers, Sir Robert Carnwath, are also members of the Livery. After serving apprenticeship, he was admitted to the Livery in 1962. He became Treasurer of the Company in 1994.

He suggests that his own involvement with music demonstrates that it is not necessary to be very proficient to get pleasure and hopefully make a contribution. He plays the piano badly for his own amusement and to accompany his children as they have worked their way through the Associated Board music exams. He has sung, and occasionally carried minor administrative roles in choirs, choral societies and madrigal groups in different parts of the world during the course of his business career. Thus, for example, he has sung in a performance of the B minor Mass and conducted a concert of English madrigals in Kuala Lumpur, audited the accounts of the Selangor Philharmonic Society and performed in concerts of 17th and 18th century church music in Paris.

The greater part of his career was spent in merchant banking where his father had also been a director. When he left in 1989 their combined terms of service had together amounted to 73 years, so they both were saddened by recent events at what was the City's oldest merchant bank. His time at Barings included postings to South Africa, the United States, France and Malaysia as well as travel at various times in other European countries, the Middle East and the Far East.

He has been involved in a number of voluntary organisations. Between 1968 and 1976 he was Treasurer and later Deputy Chairman of the housing charity, SHELTER, at a seminal time in the development of Housing Associations as a major supplement to public housing provision. When he returned from Malaysia in 1979, he became Treasurer of Voluntary Service Overseas. Also he became interested in the preservation of

historic buildings as a means of regenerating inner city areas as Chairman of the Spitalfields Historic Buildings Trust.

When he was approaching 50, he decided he would like to try and spend the rest of his career in the arts and heritage fields. He was fortunate to be offered the position of Deputy Director of the Tate Gallery and membership of the London Advisory Committee of English Heritage, which is responsible for considering planning applications affecting Listed Buildings and Conservation areas in Greater London. Recently he has become Acting Director of the National Lottery for Heritage projects.

As Master, he would like to continue the steps taken by his predecessor to provide more informal social occasions for members of the Livery to meet and exchange ideas. He would like to see a greater focus in the use of those charitable funds managed by the Company, where the purposes are not specifically laid down by their Trust Deeds, particularly towards the cost of music tuition for the less well off or in 'inner city' areas of London. He is very supportive of the proposal to rationalise the Allcard scholarships into three major



The Master Elect Francis Carnwath

Musicians' Company scholarships for post-graduate instrumentalists.

He is also very interested in the campaign, in reaction to the Templeman Report, to keep open and find sympathetic uses for the wonderful churches in the City of London. This should be a cause close to the hearts of many of our Liveryman and he would welcome ideas.

EDITORIAL

The response level to the questionnaire was far better than either the pessimists thought likely or the optimists had hoped.

That the information is still being digested and that those of you who kindly declared their willingness to discuss matters further have not yet been contacted is indicative of the time required to consider your views.

To the extent that your Editors were partially instrumental in the preparation of the survey may we use this column to acknowledge and thank you for your input – of which more anon.

However, what is immediately evident is the extent to which you are prepared to use your personal contacts in support of the Livery, our Prizewinners and Scholarship holders. Long gone are the days when significant patronage of the Arts would be forthcoming from the Church and the Aristocracy. While this mantle has since fallen variously on the Arts Council and currently the Nation Lottery, we shall need to utilise all our resources to develop the dynamics of the Company's renewed sense of purpose.

Your replies indicate a willing commitment on that account which can only serve as an encouragement to us all.