

J.M. Levien

School of Music), he made a most important contribution to the musical life of the country as Co-Treasurer (1910-15), Treasurer (1915-18) and then Secretary (1918-29) of the Royal Philharmonic Society. It was Levien who was largely responsible for re-starting the RPS when it was going through a very difficult period after the first world war. He was a member of the court of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, having entered as a Liveryman in 1921, and it was he who provided the endowment for the Worshipful Company's "Sir Charles Santley Memorial Gifts" for singers. (Of which I was the proud recipient in 1975) He died in 1953, bequeathing large sums of money to the Company, the residue of his estate, out of which a Trust was to be created for a scholarship in advanced Organ playing or research, in memory of the renowned organist W.T. Best.

My personal knowledge of Levien was limited to one afternoon almost half a century ago, but that meeting remains very clearly in my memory as a direct contact with a great living tradition of singing, expounded by a man who had retained his knowledge of, and enthusiasm for that tradition well into advanced old age. I remember his last words to us: "Don't, whatever you do, fall into this dreadful modern habit of darkening your voices artificially. We always aimed for the silvery quality, which is capable of subtle variations of colour, and which also preserves the voice into old age". This was when this remarkable little old man stood up and sang with the voice of an enthusiastic youngster.

Court Membership

Following the Lord Mayor's remarks to the Masters, Prime Warden and Upper Bailiff of his year, our Master set in train a Court discussion. The result has been an important structural change to provide a more regular and orderly turnover on the Court. The previous arrangements required resignation when 10 years past the Chair or 75 years of age which ever came the later. This meant that Masters in their fifties could continue possibly for a further twenty years blocking new membership.

In future, the Court, which is restricted by our Charter to 22 excluding the Master, will aim to

QUINCENTENARY REPORT

As the year 2000 and our 500th anniversary approaches, various plans are beginning to come to fruition.

A Commemorative CD has now been approved by the Court and the accompanying booklet is in the course of preparation by George Derbyshire. Details of its distribution will be announced when the final package is complete.

A special **BRASS BAND CONCERT** will be held in the evening following the 148th British Open Brass Band Championship in Symphony Hall, Birmingham. in September. Two of the top championship bands have been booked, Grimethorpe Colliery and Yorkshire Building Society, this year's defending champions. International conductor and Company Silver Medalist, Elgar Howarth, has agreed to support the event as Special Guest Conductor.

A new edition of the **COMPANY HISTORY** is being prepared, and your attention is drawn to Pastmaster Crewdson's request for information on page three.

Honorary Yeoman Andreas Prindl has agreed to chair a new committee for the Fundraising of the new **FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS**. Members will include Junior Warden Sir Alan Traill and Assistant Norman Tribble.

Other members will be announced shortly.

The directory, **MUSICIANS OF THE MILLENNIUM** is in course of preparation.

There will be an extra issue of **PRESERVE HARMONY** for which it is anticipated that the present team will need some assistance.

comprise The Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, 10 Assistants and 10 Pastmasters. Each year, the most senior or eleventh Pastmaster will resign and ordinarily be invited to become an Honorary Assistant. He will be able to attend the Court with all previous privileges, but unable to vote. If the number of Pastmasters should drop below 10, then no resignation will be required until the limit is reached again. This will enable the election of at least one new Assistant every year.

Pastmaster John Morley offered the Master his resignation and has been appointed an Honorary Assistant.

RISING STARS

Whatever happened to...?

Too often, young musicians receive a recognition from the Company and are then forgotten. In many cases, it is not possible to keep watch on their development and progress.

The Editorial Team would like to hear news of those with whom we have been associated. Liverymen, involved in the many different aspects of music, must be meeting our award winners in various capacities. There will also be occasions when performers may be remembered and recognised from information about Company associations mentioned in the programmes.

Recently, a presentation was made in recognition of many years service to Music. The recipient made the point that this was the first time the Company had shown an interest since the receipt of their previous award from us about forty years ago!

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED. We can be reached through the Company Office.

EDITORIAL TEAM

We are fortunate to have gained the assistance of Liveryman Malcolm Farrer-Brown on our Editorial Team. His previous occupation as an entertainment lawyer will hopefully ensure that some of our more libellous thoughts continue to be muted and our litigious record maintained at its present level! For thirty years he ran the Law Society recitals with a colleague, so having recently returned from Dartington Summer School of Music, we earnestly await to hear his own rendering of 'Trial by Jury'.