

# THE MASTER'S Y

WHEN IT COMES TO READING AN ANNUAL REPORT, I SUSPECT THAT, LIKE ME, MANY OF YOU QUESTION why the personal tribute only features in the closing observations of the responsible executive.

Naturally, the past year has been filled with a substantial commitment to the administrative affairs of the Company. Throughout, my wife, Barbara, has consistently encouraged me to reduce the seemingly endless volumes of paper which have littered my desk where, once more, there is room for dust to settle. Our new Clerk, Simon Waley, had assumed full responsibility for this post the previous July. Even so, given the parallel commitment to the Honourable the Irish Society, it says much for him that he managed the demands of our respective governing bodies in their determination to review everything – or almost everything – we were doing or are about to!

I therefore begin my review in thanking Barbara and countless other people both within and without the Company, who have done so much to make my year as Master as memorable and fulfilling as anyone could possibly expect.

One of the reasons that I have enjoyed office is that even as the Company moves towards the 500th anniversary of the Grants of its Articles of Incorporation, in common with my predecessors, the Master of the day is still allowed a remarkable degree of discretion in the two primary functions, the one internal, developing the administrative activities of the



*The Lord Mayor's Show with Winged Fellowship.*

Company; the other external; which embraces a varied social diary encompassing a vital public relations role.

The year has contained an extraordinary mixture of formal and informal, happy and sad. The sequence of events sometimes followed in such quick succession that it is only now, when I have time to reflect, that their full impact is felt and appreciated.

A new feature of my installation was the attendance of our numerous Service Prize Award Winners, which provided them with an opportunity to meet the Court. As it happened, this was to be the last occasion on which Pastmaster, the late Sir Vivian Dunn was to be

present. On account of his unique association with the Royal Marines, I was delighted that he agreed to join me in making the presentation to their representatives.

At the subsequent dinner, the music was provided by the Fujita sisters from the GSMD, thanks to Ian Horsburgh. The assembly was so overtaken by their performance of Beethoven and Brahms that it was evidently some moments before they returned to the natural encore of "Sisters"!

November, the first month in office, is a busy one. It includes both the Lord Mayor's Show and the traditional celebrations to our Patron Saint, Saint Cecilia. By agreement with the Pageant Master, I was able to lead, fully robed, the Winged Fellowship float in my capacity as a Trustee.

1994 was also the third year of the cycle in which the Musicians' Benevolent Fund annual service takes place at St Paul's Cathedral, with the Musicians sharing rather than having our otherwise independent Choral Evensong.

It may not be known that the Master of the day has some influence in the choice of music, in addition to the privilege of reading the first lesson. The congregation was rewarded with exceptional musical performances under the Director of Music at St Paul's, Liveryman John Scott. Subsequently, it transpired that by a happy coincidence, the Lord Mayor mentioned my choice of Parry's "Blest Pair of Sirens". It was a work that featured in our respective musical educations some years ago!

Elsewhere in this issue reference is made to the invaluable work of the Music Therapy Trust, with which a



*The Team; Immediate Pastmaster Tony Pool, Senior Warden Francis Carnwath, The Master Adrian Davis, Junior Warden Anthony Burnett-Brown and the Learned Clerk Simon Waley.*

*Photo: Lewis Photos*