



The Liszt Society Newsletter

No. 19 - DECEMBER 1983 : Edited by Adrian Williams.

FORTHCOMING.

On 20 January 1984 Liszt Society member Leslie Howard will include in his recital at the Wigmore Hall Liszt's transcription of Berlioz's Harold in Italy.

2 - 4 March inclusive a programme of lectures, culminating in a recital, devoted to Liszt will be given by the pianist/lecturer Jean Phillips at Burton Manor, Burton, Wirral, Cheshire.

On 24 March, at St. John's, Smith Square, John Ogdon will join the Southend Philharmonic Orchestra for a performance of Liszt's Second Piano Concerto. The remainder of the programme will probably include Nielsen's overture Helios and the Fifth Symphony of Sibelius.

RECORDS.

Liszt Society member Amaral Vieira is contracted with RCA - BRAZIL to record the complete works of Liszt for solo piano. An introductory record and three subsequent volumes have so far been issued - but we have no information at present about their availability in the United Kingdom.

Highly recommended by our Secretary is side one of an interesting record (Rare Recorded Editions No. 161) entitled "Tribute to Lamond", on which the celebrated Scottish pianist talks about Liszt, his teacher, with illustrations. This is available from Michael Thomas, 54 Lymington Road, London NW6 1JB. (435 1476) Price: £4.95 (plus 90p pp, U.K.).

Not highly recommended, but available from the same supplier, is what turns out to be a pirated recording of the Liszt (1977) Festival of London production of Liszt's youthful opera Don Sanche. Mr. Thomas cannot be held responsible for this two-album set (price: £9.90 plus pp.), copies of which were supplied to him from the USA; but Mr. Chris de Souza, who staged the opera in 1977, feels, justifiably, that not only was the recording of this live production an act of blatant piracy, but the quality of the recording is "appalling and excruciating". Happily, for those interested in obtaining a good recording of the work, Mr. de Souza tells us that BBC Radio Three "has, at last, got round to making a recording, and that a broadcast is scheduled sometime in the second quarter of 1984", from which it is hoped that an authoritative high quality recording of a most interesting work may be made and offered to the public.

Liszt Society member Nigel Partridge has opened a shop in Twickenham (1A May Road, Twickenham, Middlesex. Tel: 01-894 7746) called "Heritage Records", dealing mainly with early recordings, and will be pleased to hear from members who are interested.

INFORMATION SOUGHT.

The following letter has been received:

"Sir,

As a doctoral candidate in the violin at Boston University under Professors John Daverio and Murray Lefkowitz, I am writing a dissertation on the violin music of British composer-violinist Ethel Barns (born London 1880? - died Maidenhead 1948). Would any of your members with information about Ethel and/or her husband, the baritone Charles Phillips, please contact me at the address below? I am especially interested in locating manuscripts, family and friends.

Yours faithfully, Barbara Englesberg, 168 Coolidge Street, Brookline, MA 02146, USA."

BOOK WANTED. The Editor of this Newsletter wishes either to buy or borrow a copy of A Vida de Liszt, the book on Liszt by his Portuguese pupil José Viana da Mota, published at Lisbon in 1945.

It is impossible to obtain this book in London (even at the British Library), and so if any member has a copy which he or she can spare either for good or for a while, he will be delighted to hear from them. Post and package costs will of course be reimbursed. (In return loan he can offer an interesting biography and study - also in Portuguese - of Viana da Mota.)

Please contact: A. Williams, 34 Manchester Street, London W1M 5PF. Tel: 01-935 1523.

LISZT SOCIETY JOURNALS. Spare copies of back numbers of most of the Society's annual Journals are available and may be obtained from the Secretary. None now remain of Volumes One and Two, or of Volume Eight (this year's issue). But Volumes Three to Seven are in stock and cost £3.00 each, post and package included. If you would like copies of any of these, please apply to Mrs. Mistarz.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY. Will those members who have not to date renewed their annual membership subscription, which was due on 1 July for the current subscription year, please note that, since they have not responded to two reminders, the Secretary presumes that they wish to resign their membership, and their names will accordingly, with much regret, be removed from the Register of Members as from 31 December 1983.

THE CHILTERN MARATHON. We are most grateful to Liszt Society member Paul Gregory for his epic efforts in this gruelling event, and for raising from sponsors, and subsequently donating to the Society's funds, the sum of £32.50. That it was a far smaller sum than that (£105.70) raised by sponsorship of Mr. Gregory in the London Marathon earlier this year, was because the members who responded to his invitation numbered only five. (But they are all now assured of their places among the Blessed.)

LISZT IN HUNGARY. From Alan Walker's interesting review in the TLS of Dezső Legány's invaluable book (details of which were given in our September Newsletter), it seems that Dr. Legány is now engaged on a successor volume, taking the story of Liszt's Hungarian connexions up to the end of his life - which is excellent news.

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE, WINCHESTER. We were sorry to learn recently, from an article in the Hampshire Chronicle of 12 August, that St. John's House at Winchester, where Liszt took part in a concert in 1840, and which was recently restored, was in the hands of the receivers, due to the high cost of conversion work, and hope that a buyer has been found who will continue to preserve this impressive historical building, dating from the 13th century. Situated in The Broadway, on the site of the hospice of the order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, it was used in the 13th century to provide food and shelter for the sick and needy, and in the 18th and 19th centuries it was one of Hampshire's most popular rooms.

RECORDS. Liszt Society member Keith Fagan has a great many gramophone records (of music by Liszt and others) that he wishes to give away as he is transferring his entire collection to cassette. Will those members who may be interested to know what items are included, please 'phone Mrs. Mistarz.

SCORE. The Secretary has received from the distinguished French pianist, composer and Liszt enthusiast, Setrak, a copy of his transcription for two pianos of Liszt's Malédiction for piano and orchestra. It is published by Editions Mario Bois, 17 rue Richer, 75009 Paris.