



# The Liszt Society Newsletter

No. 20 - MARCH 1984 : Edited by ADRIAN WILLIAMS

## CORRECTION!

Please note that the date of the concert at St. John's, Smith Square, at which John Ogdon will play Liszt's Second Piano Concerto is not 24 March, as given in the last Newsletter, but the 31st.

## SPECIAL EVENT.

Saturday, 5 May. Our President, Louis Kentner, has most generously consented to give a pianoforte recital, for the benefit of the Liszt Society, at the Assembly Rooms, Norwich, in the Music Room in which Liszt himself played in the morning of 21 September 1840. This event has been organised by our member Mr. Kenneth Dobson, of 16 Parson's Mead, Eaton Village, Norwich NR4 6PG (Tel: 0603 53309).

Mr. Kentner's programme will be as follows:

Beethoven, L van:	Sonata in A flat, Op. 110
Chopin, F:	Ballades (complete)
Liszt F:	God's Blessing in Solitude Will-o'-the-wisp Grand Concert Solo

Norwich may be a little off the beaten track for many members, but we do hope, and urge, that all efforts be made to get to this ancient and lovely city on the Wensum for an event that is at once special and unusual. Those wishing to travel by train from London and/or needing overnight hotel accommodation should contact Mr. Dobson at the address, or on the 'phone number, given above. Those who would like to travel to Norwich with other members may ring Mrs. Mistarz on 01-788 6091 for names/addresses/telephone numbers of those to contact.

The handsome Assembly Rooms, built in 1754 by Thomas Ivory, have recently been restored. I do not know what other great pianists they have witnessed between Liszt and Kentner - but the former certainly created a memorable precedent (as in his second concert of the day, at the Theatre Royal). In its review the Norwich Mercury talked of "an execution defying all description" which "must be heard to be believed". And the Norfolk Chronicle, although not caring for the works played by Liszt, admired "the perfection of his execution, the almost superhuman control he possesses over his instrument" and believed him to be "a man of real genius . . . his countenance, his conversation, his manners, nay even the eccentricities of his costume, all conspire to proclaim him a man of no ordinary mind."

Now we have a chance to hear music by Liszt, played by one of his great successors and compatriots, in that same hallowed room. Please, therefore, do not miss what it is perhaps not hyperbole to describe as a unique occasion.

Please note: no definite information available yet as to the time the recital will begin. But it will be in the evening (of Saturday, 5 May), starting probably at either 7.00 or 7.30. Please contact Mrs. Mistarz nearer the date if you require exact time.

## POETRY AND PIANO.

Liszt Society member Mary Leonard will be taking part in a poetry and piano recital at Leighton House on 2 June, beginning at 7.30 p.m.

The works to be played by Miss Leonard during the course of the evening include three by Liszt (Petrarch Sonnet 104; Dream of Love 3; Consolation 3) and his transcription of Schumann's song Devotion.

NEW LISZT EDITION.

Volumes 5 and 17 of the New Liszt Edition published by Editio Musica have now been published. Details of contents and price may be obtained from Mrs. Mistarz.

We still have no news from Messrs. Schott about the paperback issue of New Liszt Edit'n

LISZT IN VIENNA.

Good news from Budapest. The distinguished Hungarian musicologist Dezső Legány (whose brilliant Liszt and His Country 1869-1873 will by now be known to many of our members) will shortly be bringing out a further book, dealing this time with contemporary Viennese reviews of Liszt's concerts in the Austrian capital during his childhood and virtuoso period. It will in addition contain some 150 hitherto unpublished letters of Liszt's, dating from 1830 to 1886, to be found in Vienna. Although the basic language of the book is German - its title being Franz Liszt. Unbekannte Presse und Briefe aus Wien. 1822 - 1886 - the letters will be published in their original language, French or German as the case may be.

This will certainly be another invaluable contribution to Lisztian scholarship, one which our German- (and French-) reading members will wish to take special note of. It is hoped that the book will be out within the next two or three months, and further details, if available, will be given in our June Newsletter.

MUSICIANS IN MINIATURE.

Liszt Society member Margaret Ellaway, a professional painter, offers to do paintings of Liszt, or any other of the great composers, for other members at the lowest-possible cost of £60 (with simple, gold-plated miniature frame) or £75 (traditional black-surround acorn frame), and from each commission will most kindly donate £10 to the Society.

It need hardly be stressed that miniatures are not just "small paintings", but a highly skilled and specialised branch of the art. Margaret Ellaway is such a specialist (members visiting the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition this year may care to keep an eye open for examples of her work), and will accept the return of any painting if the customer is not fully satisfied. The frames are individually crafted by a specialist.

For further inquiries, please contact: Margaret Ellaway, "Weimar", 15 Halland Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Glos GL5 3ODJ. (Tel: 0242/528137)

NEW RECORDS.

EMI Pathé Marconi have just released a recording by the Labeque sisters, HMV 1436451, of Liszt's Reminiscences of Don Juan and Two Episodes from Lenau's Faust for two pianos. Recorded in Paris in July 1983, and published in France, this record may not yet have reached the UK market.

THE PIANIST'S TALENT.

This is the title of a book by Harold Taylor. Described as "a new approach to piano playing based on the principles of F. Matthias Alexander and Raymond Thiberge", it has a foreword by John Ogdon and is published in paperback by Kahn & Averill at \$2.75. The illustrations include one of Thiberge himself as well as boyhood photos of certain child prodigies. Having as yet had time only to "Johnson" it, I should say this little book is worth the money.

KUN WOO PAIK AND LISZT AT THE WIGMORE HALL.

The gifted Korean pianist Kun Woo Paik will be giving a series of Liszt Recitals at the Wigmore Hall this summer: the Tuesday evenings of June 5, 12, 19, 26; July 3 & 10. Messrs Harold Holt will be circularising all our U.K. members with full details.

This is the same series that this highly acclaimed pianist with a huge repertoire (inter alia, 50 concertos) gave in Paris in 1982. Although, as any Lisztian can see at a glance, it does not include all the piano works of Liszt, contrary to what we are told by Harold Holt, it is certainly a valiant and generous selection, and Mr. Paik deserves all our support for what will be a memorable series.

I see that the Paris circular contained these shameful (and perfectly true) words: "L'immensité de l'oeuvre de Liszt dépasse notre curiosité, même aujourd'hui. Ce que l'on joue le plus souvent est la plus petite partie d'un tout méconnu."