



The Liszt Society

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Limited

Newsletter

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NEXT MEETING.

Mr. John Cawsey has invited Liszt Society members to his home on Sunday, 28 June. Details have already been circulated.

SECRETARY.

Since our new Secretary, Mrs. Audrey Ellison, is in the throes of moving house, and also obliged to be away from home a good deal for family reasons, Mrs. Eunice Mistarz is kindly holding the fort and continuing to deal with the most urgent secretarial matters.

Mrs. Ellison's new address will be notified to members in due course.

DOUGLAS PERONI.

We regret to have to inform members of the death, at Sittingbourne Hospital on Friday, 13 March, of Douglas Peroni, a former Secretary of the Liszt Society.

It was Douglas who enthusiastically stepped into the breach between 1978 and 1980, when, obliged to spend much time abroad and finding it impossible to give as much attention to Liszt Society matters as she wished, our longstanding Secretary, Mrs. Mistarz, relinquished the reins of office for those years.

A keen champion of the music of Liszt, Douglas made annual visits to Budapest, where on one occasion he gave a broadcast talk on Liszt and the Liszt Society. Of one such visit he contributed a description to our Journal.

We are sure that all members of the Society who came into contact with Douglas during his years as our Secretary, will wish to be associated with the condolences we send to his widow, Doris.

ERVIN NYIREGYHÁZI.

The pianist Nyiregyházi died in Los Angeles on 13 April at the age of 84. The following is from the obituary accorded to him in The Times (18 April).

Nyiregyházi began to play the piano at the age of two in his native Hungary and his first compositions followed two years later. But a promising career in the United States evaporated after a tempestuous divorce case in the 1920s; the first of his numerous wives attacked him with a knife and forced him to flee from New York to Los Angeles. Here he became submerged in the Hollywood swamp, tinkering with tunes for the thriving film studios.

He was born in Budapest in 1903 and his talent was soon recognised. Development was rapid, and at the age of 15 he made his Berlin début playing Liszt, and was enthusiastically received in New York in 1920. During the next 15 years he slipped from public view. Having settled on the West Coast, he drank a lot and lived the life of a near-vagrant.... For 40 years he did not own a piano.

His return to the limelight began with a concert in 1973 at a church in San Francisco when he played some of the lesser known pieces of Liszt; an amateur recording of the recital was heard by Harold Schonberg, music critic of The New York Times, and this led to Columbia releasing two gramophone records of his playing....

He was married ten times, losing six wives by divorce and three by death. He is survived by his tenth wife, Doris.

THANK YOU.

Mrs. Mistarz would like once again to thank the 68 members who contributed to her retirement gift, each of whom she has thanked personally, and to tell them that the total sum amounted to £509.86. As the Chairman announced at the AGM last July, Mrs. Mistarz chose to use this gift to cover her expenses in attending the Liszt Symposium at Budapest in October — a memorable experience which she will always cherish.

LISZT PLAQUE
IN LONDON.

On Tuesday, 28 October 1986, a Liszt Commemorative Plaque was affixed to the building standing at No. 18 Great Marlborough Street, London W1, on the site, it is thought, of the Erard piano manufacturer's premises where Liszt may have stayed in 1840 and 1841. The plaque was unveiled by the Lady Mayoress of Westminster, Mrs. Terence Mallinson. Also present among the small crowd of onlookers were the Hungarian Ambassador, Dr. Mátyás Domokos, and the Chairman of the Liszt Society, Dr. Vernon Harrison. The plaque was made in Budapest and was presented jointly by the Liszt Ferenc Társaság, Budapest, and The Liszt Society, London.

LISZT MEDAL.

On Monday, 27 October, at a reception given by the Hungarian Ambassador at 35 Eaton Place, London SW1, on behalf of the Hungarian Ministry of Culture & Education, Dr. Domokos presented the Liszt Medal of Honour, in the form of a sculpted bronze plaque, to the Founder of our Society, Dr. Vernon Harrison, to our retiring Secretary, Mrs. Eunice Mistarz, our incoming Secretary, Mrs. Audrey Ellison, and the pianist Leslie Howard. The Medal was also presented to Mr. Tamás Vásáry and Mr. John Bingham, and in their absence to Mr. Louis Kentner and Mr. Alfred Brendel, amongst others. The award was made for services to Liszt, and was also presented to colleagues of ours in the American Liszt Society, the French Liszt Society, the German Liszt Society, the International Liszt Centre, and the South Pacific Liszt Society, by their respective Hungarian Ambassadors, as well as to well-known pianists who have promoted knowledge and appreciation of Liszt's music by including it in their repertoires.

AUSTRALIA.

In Melbourne, Australia, a small group of Liszt enthusiasts held its inaugural meeting on 14 February 1987 under the auspices of the Adult Education Association. David Hood, who was also recently awarded a Liszt Medal for his broadcasting of Liszt's music and organisation of the Franz Liszt Exhibition at Radio 3MBS-FM in August 1986, has been instrumental in getting this group started. Called the "Friends of Liszt", the group plans to meet once a month.

NEWS FROM OTHER
LISZT SOCIETIES.

In December, the American Liszt Society issued a centenary edition of its Journal, the final issue under the editorship of Professor Maurice Hinson, who launched the magazine in June 1977. His successor as editor is Dr. Michael Saffle of Blacksburg, Virginia.

Professor Hinson has also recently published a volume of Liszt's music. Entitled "At the Piano with Liszt", it has been compiled and edited by Professor Hinson with students of the pianoforte in mind. In his introduction he writes: "Even though many of Liszt's piano works are technically difficult, the purpose of 'At the Piano with Liszt' is to bring together a number of his short and beautiful compositions which are technically undemanding and largely unknown." The volume is issued by Alfred Publishing Co., and Mrs. Mistarz will be pleased to supply full details of its contents etc. upon request. It will also be reviewed in our forthcoming Journal.

Professor Takashi Yamazaki has founded a Liszt Society at Nagoya in Japan. All the members are professional pianists, musicologists, or lecturers on music. Professor Yamazaki is well known as a professional pianist, and has been a juror at many international piano competitions.

OTHER LISZT SOCIETIES cont.... The most recent "Liszt Saeculum" (No. 39) issued by the International Liszt Centre (Sweden) forms a splendid round-up of Liszt events, concerts, etc. in his Centenary Year of 1986. As the foreword states:

"The collection of programmes, newspaper cuttings, articles and other reports has been received from the authors, artists, concert agents, newspapers, representatives and members. As the material literally comes from so many countries, it is felt it might be interesting to publish this collection in one volume, thus creating a documentation of the past year which might also be used for future reference."

After a preliminary page devoted to pictures of Liszt stamps issued during the year, the wealth of material is presented country by country: United Kingdom, Australia, United States, Sweden, West Germany, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Switzerland, Austria, The Netherlands, France, Italy, USSR.

We regret to record the death of the President of the Italian branch of the European Liszt Centre, Otto Bremer.

The magazine of the South Pacific Liszt Society quotes the composer Aaron Copland:

"The world has had greater composers than Liszt, no doubt, but the fact remains that we do him and ourselves a grave injustice in ignoring the scope of his work and the profound influence it has exerted on the contemporary music scene. The element which strikes one most forcefully, separating his music from all other 19th-century composers, is its sonorous appeal. No other composer before him understood better how to manipulate tones to produce the most satisfying sound texture, ranging from the comparative simplicity of a beautifully spaced accompaniment figure to the massive fall of a tumbling cascade of shimmering chords."

DON SANCHE.

Liszt's youthful opera "Don Sanche" has now been recorded by Hungaroton, and is available from their London distributors. Ref. No. SLPD 12744/45. Introductory booklet in English, French, German, Hungarian. Sung in French.

"Recorded Treasures" have issued a special edition of Liszt recordings. The price is 95 dollars.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, USA.

If you would like to have a catalogue of the music manuscripts, first editions and correspondence of Liszt in the Library of Congress, Washington DC 200540, United States of America, write to: Music Division LM 113, Library of Congress, Washington DC 200540, United States of America. A catalogue will be sent free of charge. This information has kindly been provided by our member Dr. Charles Suttoni.

NEW LISZT EDITION,
SERIES 11.

Series 11 of the New Liszt Edition being published by Editio Musica, Budapest, is planned to commence this year. If you would like a copy of Editio Musica's Introduction to this series, please contact Mrs. Mistarz. Series 11 will comprise 24 volumes, subdivided into Liszt's transcriptions and paraphrases.

PRINTS OF COMPOSERS.

Mr. Roy Carter, 4 Cantley Mansions, 68 Fairhazel Gardens, London NW6 has sent an illustrated sheet of prints of famous composers, including Liszt, taken from original pen and ink drawings by Alexei Griboyedov, a Russian artist who worked at the turn of the century, which he is selling, mounted, for £2.50 each + 75 pence for postage & packing (6 or more p & p free). These prints are 8" x

PRINTS cont....

6" mounted, and are suitable for framing. If you would like a copy of the illustrated sheet showing the 22 composers available in the series, please write direct to Mr. Carter or ring him on 01-624 1110.

LISZT'S BIRTHPLACE.

Mr. Denis Dorogsaghy, a Hungarian member of the Liszt Society who now lives in London, contributes some pertinent remarks about the correct designation of Liszt's birthplace:

One often reads both in books and in newspapers that Franz Liszt "was born in Raiding, a small town in the province of Burgenland in Austria".

It is true that Burgenland (including Raiding) is today part of Austria, but this has been the case only since 1920, when Hungary was obliged to hand over this province following the Paris Peace Treaties after the first World War. Before that, Burgenland belonged to Hungary, and the Hungarian name of Raiding is Doborján.

It is perhaps worth mentioning here that the same applies to Eisenstadt (Kismarton), where Haydn lived and worked before the Esterházy family moved to Esterháza. Both places were in Hungary at that time; today only Esterháza is in Hungary.

THE STAR.

During his lifetime Liszt was often hailed as "a meteor", "a comet," and even likened to the Sun. And if all the notes played by him on the piano during his lifetime were added up (no doubt some Liszt scholar, somewhere, is even now engaged upon this task), they might rival, numerically speaking, the number of stars in a galaxy (well, a very small galaxy). Now he has become, literally (more or less), a heavenly body.

Mrs. Margaret Ellaway, a member of the Liszt Society living in Cheltenham (and possessor of, amongst other Lisztiana, a piano on which Liszt once played), has been in touch with the Star Registration Society, based in Switzerland, and after payment of an "astronomical" sum has had the name "Franz Liszt" given to a previously unnamed star. Since, in the 1830s, and with a little help from the pen of Madame d'Agoult, Liszt published an article on Benvenuto Cellini's "Perseus" (Loggia dei Lanzi, Florence), the star is, appropriately enough, in the constellation of Perseus. Now - to your telescopes!

SOME RECENT LITERARY PUBLICATIONS.

Various recent issues of The New Hungarian Quarterly have offered articles mentioning Liszt.

No. 101 (Spring 1986): "A Boy Named Daniel" (Alan Walker).

No. 99 (Autumn 1985): "The New Liszt Edition" (Imre Sulyok).

No. 103 (Autumn 1986): "Musicien humanitaire" (Klára Hamburger); "Liszt in His Formative Years - Unpublished Letters 1824-1827" (Mária Eckhardt); "Liszt the Traveller" (János Kárpáti); "Liszt and the Budapest Musical Scene" (Dezso Legány); "The Last Visit to London: April 1886" (Adrian Williams).

No. 104 (Winter 1986): "Liszt and Form - Some Thoughts on the First Movement of the Dante Symphony" (John Williamson); "The Liszt Pianos" (Geraldine Keeling).

Books: "Franz Liszt: Ein Genie aus dem Pannonischen Raum - Kindheit und Jugend." Burgenländisches Landesmuseum, 1986. Text & Gestaltung, Gerhard Winkler.

"Aspects of the Liszt Tradition" by Tilly Fleischmann. Cork, 1986.

"Franz Liszt: Eine Lebenschronik in Bildern und Dokumenten" by Ernst Burger. Vorwort Alfred Brendel. Munich, 1986.

"Liszt Ferenc Magyarországon 1874-1886" by Dezso Legány. Budapest, 1986. (English version now in preparation.)

"Liszt's Music Manuscripts in the National Széchényi Library" by Mária Eckhardt. Budapest, 1986.

"Liszt" by Klára Hamburger. Budapest (n.d.) (Very poor English translation of a good book.)