



The Liszt Society *Newsletter*

No. 32 - JUNE 1988

THE NEWSLETTER: The Liszt Society Council wishes to apologise for the paucity of newsletters over the past year, and intends to restore them on a regular quarterly basis. The next newsletter, therefore, will be sent out in mid-September, and the closing date for any items of information for that issue will be 1st September, 1988. Any advance notice of concerts, recordings, publications or other Liszt-related happenings would be much appreciated. [AGENTS AND CONCERT PROMOTERS PLEASE NOTE!] The newsletter is also a forum for members' views, and all contributions (short!) would be welcome.

THE JOURNAL: After a long delay, the 1987 Journal has appeared, and the 1988 Journal will go to press very soon. The delay in the distribution of the 1987 Journal was partly a result of the late publication of the extended anniversary year Journal in 1986, but it is hoped that all will run smoothly from now on. For some time, many members have wished to see some of Liszt's music in the Journal, so, commencing with the 1988 issue, at least one normally-elusive Liszt work will be included. The Editor of the Journal, Adrian Williams, has completed ten years in this onerous and unremunerated post, and all members owe him a debt of gratitude for the standard of content and presentation which he has established and maintained.

THE SUBSCRIPTION: Publication of the 1986 and 1987 Journals, and of the Berlioz/Liszt King Lear Overture has reduced Society finances to a rump of precariously modest dimensions. The Auditors have politely but firmly insisted that the Society's income must be augmented if the Company is to remain viable. So, sadly, the subscription must be raised, but it is hoped that the compensation of the new music pages of the Journal will offset members' disappointment at these tidings. With effect from the instalment DUE ON 1st JULY, 1988, the annual subscription for members within the United Kingdom will be a flat rate of FIFTEEN POUNDS. Our friends abroad will pay an annual subscription of EIGHTEEN POUNDS. Would all members who pay by standing order have the amount emended in time for this year's subscription, please? Anyone who has already paid at the old rate is invited to send the balance of the new rate to the Secretary.

PUBLICATIONS: The next Liszt Society Publication, through Bardic Press, will be the PIANO PIECE IN A FLAT no. 1, S. 189 [not to be confused with Piano Piece in A flat no. 2, actually written earlier, on a theme employed in the Ballade no. 1, and currently available in the Neue Liszt-Ausgabe, Series I, Volume 9]. Member William Wright first brought the forgotten publication of this piece (in "The Piano Student", December, 1935) to our attention, the whereabouts of the manuscript being unknown - it passed into anonymous hands at auction some years ago. **KING LEAR SUPPLEMENT:** Robert Threlfall and Leslie Howard have prepared a copious critical supplement to the Liszt Society publication of Berlioz/Liszt King Lear Overture. All future sales of this work [available from the Secretary for eight pounds, postage and packing included] will include the supplement. Anyone who has already purchased the volume may obtain the supplement, gratis, from the Secretary. **NLE SERIES II:** A few pre-publication copies of volume 7 (!) of the Neue Liszt-Ausgabe

second series [which will contain the transcriptions, paraphrases and fantasies on other composers' material, for piano solo] are in circulation, so subscribers should receive their copies soon. Editio Musica Budapest hopes to issue volumes 14 and 1 before the end of the year. But it still looks as if it will take more than a lifetime for the whole edition to appear, which is why the Liszt Society still has an interest in publishing works not yet in the NLE, or alternative versions of pieces already in the NLE. Meanwhile the agency in Britain for the NLE has been transferred to Boosey and Hawkes - for both the bound and the paperback versions.

LISZT MS SOLD AT SOTHEBY'S: A piano manuscript, presumed to be of Liszt's Grand Solo caractéristique à propos d'une Chansonette de Panzeron of 1832 has been sold at auction to an anonymous buyer for £71,500. The piece has never been published and there is no news of its present whereabouts. No copy has been made, and it seems unlikely that Lisztophiles will be able to examine the piece in the near future.

CONCERTS: We have received very little information about forthcoming performances of Liszt's music, but would mention that Witold Lutoslawski will conduct Tasso at the Proms on 12th August, and Christian Blackshaw will play the A major Concerto on 12th September.

RECORDINGS: The only information to hand comes from Hyperion, who have asked Leslie Howard to follow his recording of the Liszt Waltzes with a series which will eventually include the complete piano music of Liszt. The next recording to be released contains the Ballades, Legends, Berceuse, Impromptu, Piano Piece in A flat no. 1 and the Polonaises.

LOUIS KENTNER: Members will have read Dr. Harrison's moving obituary to our late President in the last Newsletter. Although the 1987 Journal contains no further obituary, it is hoped that a retrospective article upon Kentner's life and work will appear in a future issue. The sculptress Pat Finch has struck a limited edition [100] of a memorial medal, copies of which have been presented to Mrs. Kentner and to the British Museum. [Details available from the Secretary - the medals are priced at £150]

PIANO COMPETITION: The International Franz Liszt Pianoconcours will take place in Utrecht 12-28 May, 1989. The Secretary has a few copies of the prospectus. Contestants must be at least 16 and no older than 32 on 20th January, 1989. The repertoire includes such interesting options as the Scherzo and March and the Réminiscences de Robert le diable.

NEWS FROM OTHER LISZT SOCIETIES: The Belgian Society advises us of two events in Durbuy, in case anyone travels to Belgium in July. On 24th July the musicologist Maria Kovaks will present a discussion of Liszt in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. On 30th July the pianist Catherine van Loo will give a recital at the Church of St. Nicolas. The last Newsletter we received from the South Pacific Liszt Society contains a splendid piece on Liszt's illnesses by Dr. John O'Shea. (Dr. O'Shea is presently in London and has joined the British Liszt Society.)

ADDRESS FOR ALL LISZT SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. J. Audrey Ellison,
The Secretary,
The Liszt Society, Ltd.,
135, Stevenage Road,
FULHAM, LONDON, SW6 6PB

(Mrs. Ellison will be very happy to deal with all correspondence, but begs that her telephone number [01-381 9751] be used only in cases of real urgency!)