



The Liszt Society Newsletter

No. 34 - DECEMBER 1988

THE NEWSLETTER: The next issue will be sent out in mid-March, and the closing date for any items of information for that issue will be 1st March, 1989.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Regretfully, some members have still not paid their 1988/9 subscriptions yet, and we are obliged to repeat this paragraph from the last newsletter! Subscriptions were due on 1st July, 1988 - £15.00 for members within the UK and £18.00 for members abroad. Please send overdue subscriptions to the secretary as soon as possible; it would be a pity to have to delete names from the membership list because of inadvertent non-payment.

PIANO COMPETITION: Segretaria del Concorso Liszt - Premio Zanfi - Conservatorio di Musica < A. Boito > - 43100 Parma - Italy is the address to write to for the prospectus of an all-Liszt competition to be held in September, 1989, with the closing date for entries being 30th May, 1989. All competitors have to prepare the Dante Sonata and the Sonata in B minor, five other works from a fairly conservative choice but allowing any one of the paraphrases, and one of the concertos or Totentanz or the Hungarian Fantasy. First prize: ten million lire [over £4,000].

LISZT PIANO WEEKEND IN BATH: Sadly and inexplicably, we were not advised of this event in time to publicise it, but member Ernest Woolford reports that Benjamin Frith, Thomas Wakefield and Mark Bebbington produced three splendid marathon concerts in November at which an excellent array of Liszt's keyboard music was given to great acclaim. NB. Events at, and a review of, this happening gave rise to Miles Kington's spirited piece in *The Independent* - vide the 1988 Journal.

BOOKS FOR SALE: Luxembourg member Jean-Louis Jaminet, Hauptstroos 59, L-6869 Luxembourg has the following items - prices in sterling include postage and packing:

- CALVOCORESSI/Liszt/Paris, Laurens, 1926/£6.00
- ARAGONES/Marie d'Agoult/Paris, Hachette, 1938/£8.50
- M. BAGBY/Liszt's Weimar/N.Y., Yoseloff, 1961/£4.50
- H. R. HAWEIS/My Musical Life/London, Longmans, 1902/£7.50
- R. POHL/F. Liszt - Studien und Erinnerungen/Leipzig, Schlicke, 1883/£13.00
- A. HAHN/F. Liszt - Symphonische Dichtungen/Berlin, u.d. [c. 1910]/£14.50
- LA MARA/F. Liszt und die Frauen/Leipzig, B. & H., 1911/£16.00
- F. H. CLARK/Liszts Offenbarung/Berlin, Vieweg, 1907/£55.00
- J. KAPP/Liszt/Berlin, Schuster, 1922/£15.00
- H. ENGEL/Fr. Liszt/Potsdam, 1936/£12.00

A. H. CORNETTE/Liszt en zijne "Années de pèlerinage"/
Antwerp, u.d./£6.00

SACHEVERELL SITWELL: Neil Ritchie's book on our late vice-president - *Sacheverell Sitwell: An Annotated and Descriptive Bibliography 1916-1986* - is still available, and copies may be had directly of the author, whose address is Lucolena in Chianti, 50020 Firenze, Italy. The price is £42.00.

FINANCE: Council member Alan Paul writes: The Society remains very short of funds to finance activities on any but the most modest scale. Moreover, the increasing cost of printing has meant that the Journal absorbs almost all our available funds. We would therefore urge members to consider two ways in which they could assist the Society to further its aims:

(a) *Donations*: In addition to the annual subscription, donations to the Society will be most gratefully received.

(b) *Legacies and Bequests*: As the Liszt Society is a Registered Charity, current legislation exempts from Inheritance Tax any money left to the Society by members in their Wills. We would ask members to consider this possibility, particularly if they have no immediate heirs. Existing wills can be altered by a simple Codicil. The amount which the Society is to receive can be expressed either as a fixed cash sum or as a percentage of the residue of the estate. At a time of increasing inflation, the latter method is more realistic.

FROM "THE TIMES" - 23rd November, 1908 [unsigned article]

"M. CORTOT'S RECITAL: The distinguished French pianist, M. Alfred Cortot, gave the first of two recitals in the Aeolian Hall on Saturday afternoon, when he began his programme with a concerto by Wilhelm Friedemann Bach,* a very pardonable arrangement of an organ piece, since there are no opportunities for hearing such organ concertos as this on the organ in the present day, and the work was played with a fine sense of the characteristic effects of the organ. The opening of the work, on a long unchanging chord of D minor, was wrought with astonishing skill from a scarcely audible pianissimo on a single bass note up to a splendid climax, and down again as the prelude faded away again. The "Aria" is of great melodic beauty, and the finale, though a little conventional, owing something to the first chorus of "Ich hatte viel Bekümmerniss", by the composer's father, is vigorous and full of life. Why an artist whose touch and phrasing proclaim him to be a true musician should choose to follow this delightful piece with the tiresome sonata in B minor of Liszt it is impossible to guess, but with the 12 "Ländler" of Schubert we were again in the region of pure music, and the examples of Chopin, and Schumann's "Études symphoniques" were artistically played."

* Actually a concerto by Vivaldi, arranged for the organ by J. S. Bach, arranged for the piano by Liszt's pupil August Stradal, these days not really remembered, but a marvellously "wicked" transcription! The bit about the debt to the Bach cantata is, of course, moonshine.

SEASONS' GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL! - THE LISZT SOCIETY COUNCIL

[Compiled by Leslie Howard for the Liszt Society,
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