



The Liszt Society Newsletter

No. 35 - MARCH 1989

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Many members have now paid their subscriptions, although some members have underpaid because they have not had their standing orders amended. [£15.00 for members within the UK and £18.00 for members abroad] At least 50 members who have received their 1988 journals have yet to pay for them through their subscriptions!

BOOKS: Derek Watson's eagerly awaited Liszt volume for Dent's Master Musicians series will be published on 16th March. A splendid tome on the life and works, over 400 pages in length, the hardback will retail for £19.95, and a paperback version will follow in due course.

UTRECHT COMPETITION: Council member Alan Paul is considering the possibility of leading a group from the Society to attend the Liszt Piano Competition in Utrecht in May, either for the whole event [May 12-28] or just for the finals [May 27-28]. Anyone interested, please contact Alan Paul on 01-946 7486 (after hours).

KING LEAR OVERTURE: There are still a few copies of this rare Liszt transcription to be had from the Secretary at £8.00 [postage and packing included].

JOURNAL: Plans for the 1989 Journal are almost complete, but any member interested in contributing to this or a subsequent issue is invited to contact council member and Editor of the 1989 Journal, Dudley Newton, at 23, Hillcroft Crescent, Ealing, London W5 2SG.

ACTIVITIES: Please don't forget Catherine Silie's recital on 26th March at the home of Alan Paul. The next activity will be a masterclass given by Leslie Howard at the home of Paul Gregory on 30th April [booking form enclosed]. All members are welcome either as listeners or as performers of an original work or a transcription by Liszt. £5.00 per person [payable to the Liszt Society] will cover tea and biscuits at the interval, and a light supper with wine after the masterclass. The masterclass will commence at 3.00 pm, and the address is: 49, Main Street, Hanworth, Feltham, Middlesex. Anyone needing directions please contact Paul Gregory on 01-894 5732.

KENNETH DOBSON: It is with great sadness that we report the sudden death of member Kenneth Dobson on 22nd December. Mr. Dobson was a devoted Lisztian who, it will be remembered, organised Louis Kentner's recital in the Norwich Assembly Rooms in 1984, commemorating Liszt's own recital there in 1840. Our very sincere condolences go out to Mr. Dobson's wife Anna-Marie.

REGINALD WRATHWELL: Member Mr. Wrathwell's 1988 Journal was returned undelivered to the Secretary. If anyone knows whither Mr. Wrathwell has gone from Highfield, Southampton, Mrs. Ellison would be very grateful to hear!

GREAT PIANISTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES: Volume 2 of Elyse Mach's book of interviews with great pianists has been published to great acclaim in New York, by Dodd-Mead (1988) at \$18.95.

SCOTTISH PIANO COMPETITION: This international competition will take place in Glasgow between 8th and 14th January, 1990, and is open to all pianists aged from 17 to 32, European by birth, or of Scottish descent from any country in the world. Entries close on 31st July, and full regulations and entry forms may be obtained from Mrs. Ellison on 01-381 9751, Mrs. Mistarz on 01-788 6091 or from the Organising Secretary, c/o Hans Music, 16, Charing Cross Mansions, St. George's Road, Glasgow G3 6UJ.

THE LISZT SOCIETY: The Council has seen several changes and developments in recent months: our Chairman, Dr. Harrison, has announced that he will step down at the Annual General Meeting in July, and his elected successor will be Paul Gregory, who is as enthusiastic a council member and Lisztian as he is a marathon runner!

The most recent addition to the Council is the renowned musicologist and choral conductor Dr. David Trendell, of Exeter College, Oxford.

The office of President, which had remained vacant since the death of Louis Kentner, was offered by Council to Leslie Howard, who accepted the office with the avowal that he would be a working president and council member as Mr. Kentner had been before him. As members may know, Mr. Howard is a pianist, composer, teacher and musicologist who has been a member of the Society for many years, and who is engaged on the mammoth project of recording Liszt's complete piano works [the most recent volume of which contains the Ballades, Legends, Polonaises, Berceuse, Impromptu and the Piano Piece in A flat - on Hyperion label]. Those wishing to hear Mr. Howard play Liszt in concert may like to know that he will perform the last four Transcendental Studies and the March to the Scaffold, along with Gade's Sonata (which is dedicated to Liszt), at the Wigmore Hall, at lunchtime on 19th May, as part of member Steven Isserlis's series "Schumann and Friends". [see Wigmore Hall brochure for details.] In a charity concert at St. John's Smith Square on 24th May, he will include the six Chopin/Liszt Polish Songs as well as the two Legends, while at the Wigmore Hall on 19th April, he will present a programme entitled "Liszt at the Opera", comprising the Weber Freischütz Overture, the Don Juan Fantasy, the transcriptions from Aïda, Eugene Onegin, Faust, Handel's Almira, the sextet from Lucia di Lammermoor, the Liebestod from Tristan and the Norma Fantasy.