



# The Liszt Society Newsletter

No.39 - MARCH 1990

**THE SUBSCRIPTION** : Members will be interested to learn that the Society's 1990 Journal (Volume 15) and its accompanying Music Section are being printed earlier than usual this year.

Members whose 1990-91 subscriptions have been received will be able to collect their copies of Volume 15 at the AGM on June 23rd, 1990. All other paid-up members will receive their Journals by mail in the usual way.

*The rates for 1990/91 remain at £15 p.a. for UK members and £18 p.a. for Overseas membership. Subscriptions are due on July 1st 1990.*

**MEMBERSHIP** : The Society begins 1990 with 209 paid-up members. Further recruitment is still urgently needed if both publication and activities programmes are to be improved and expanded. Please urge at least one friend to join our ranks. Application forms are available from Allison Brewster, 67 Lyric Road, London SW13 9QA (Tel. 01-392-1593) or from The Secretary, 135 Stevenage Road, Fulham, London SW 6 6PB.

**FAX NUMBER** : The Society's Secretary, Audrey Ellison, now has a fax machine and can receive fax communications on 01-381-2406.

**LISZT SOCIETY ACTIVITIES** : March, April and May events are described on the accompanying sheet.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Fulham Palace on June 23rd, 1990. The recital following the meeting includes works by Liszt for violin and piano played by Krzysztof Smietana (violin) and Leslie Howard (piano). Council member William Wright and a cellist will perform the Cello Sonata written by Liszt's pupil, Frederic Lamond (1868-1948).

Details of the complete 1990-91 subscription series of Liszt Society events will be included

with the mailing of the June Newsletter and AGM papers.

**RECORDINGS** : Society member, Dennis Hennig of the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music in Sydney, Australia, has made a second Tausig recording for the Dutch recording label Etcetera. The new CD includes Tausig's Nouvelles Soirees de Vienne (Valse-Caprices d'après Johann Strauss) which Tausig intended to be pendants to Liszt's Soirees de Vienne.

President Leslie Howard's recordings of Liszt's solo piano works continue to be released by Hyperion. The latest release, Volume 5, includes the World Premiere recording of the Liszt transcription of Berlioz' Overture to King Lear. Members are reminded that the score of this work is available from the Secretary, price £8.00 inc. UK p&p.

Twelve further Volumes in the Hyperion Liszt series are scheduled to be recorded during 1990.

## **PUBLICATIONS** :

Since announcing Adalbert Engel's Franz Liszt, Der Virtuoso Klang der Menschlichkeit (Casimir Katz Verlag, 1989) in the previous Newsletter, the Secretary has learnt that the author died at the time of publication of his book. The work was dedicated to the Franz Liszt Gesellschaft and the Netherlands Franz Liszt Kring.

Oxford University Press has announced the publication in May 1990 of Portrait of Liszt by Himself and His Contemporaries. The author, Adrian Williams, is a member of the Society and the former editor of the Society's Journal. The book is 746 pages in length and will cost £40 [ISBN 19 8161 506].

Editio Musica Budapest has announced a new publication [Z 13730] available from Boosey and

Hawkes. It is a first edition of Variations de Bravoure Pour Piano sur Des Thèmes de Paganini Opus Posthumum. The edition is based on Liszt's autograph manuscript (1845) held in the Goethe and Schiller Archives in Weimar and it has been completed and edited by Imre Mezö.

Music and Medicine (Medical Profiles of Great Composers) has recently been published by Dent at £18.95 [ISBN 0 460 04784 1], 288 pages. The author is Liszt Society member John O'Shea. Composers' illnesses are described and the book includes a chapter on Liszt.

Dr John O'Shea graduated in medicine from Monash University, Melbourne and is the author of many articles on composers' illnesses. His work has appeared in the Liszt Society Journal, the Liszt Saeculum, the Hungarian Orvosi Hetilap and in many medical journals. Dr O'Shea is currently working in Sussex in an eye surgery unit.

Pendragon Press (N.Y.) announces the publication later this year of Alan Walker's new book "Liszt, Carolyne, and the Vatican Documents : The Story of a Thwarted Marriage". During several research trips to Rome in the 1980's, Professor Walker brought to light more than 100 documents in the Vatican's Secret Archives. These contain the official church records of Princess Carolyne von Sayn-Wittgenstein's 13-year struggle to have her first marriage annulled in order to contract a second one with Franz Liszt. While this marriage never took place, we now have a clearer picture of the reasons which prevented it.

The documents will be published in Latin, and in an English translation by Professor Gabrielle Erasmi, with an extensive commentary by Alan Walker.

#### RECITAL DIARY :

Goldsmith's Choral Union and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Brian Wright are to perform Liszt's CHRISTUS at the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday 2nd May 1990 at 7.00 pm. The soloists are Jo Ann Pickens, soprano, Ameral Gunson, mezzo-soprano, Martyn Hill, tenor and Bryn Terfel, bass baritone. Liszt's Christus had to wait 110 years to

be heard in London, until Brian Wright triumphantly conducted the work at the 1977 Liszt Festival and, again, at the 1978 Proms. This will be the first London performance of Christus for 12 years.

Leslie Howard will play works by Beethoven and Liszt at the Wigmore Hall on May 2nd 1990. Our President's recitals this month are being given in Preston and Ripley (see December newsletter).

Dudley Newton, editor of the Society's Journal, received the following Associated Press item :

A.P. Auburn, New York, USA  
US - CURSED CONCERT, JINXED PIANO  
MUSIC IS PERFORMED - FINALLY

A Liszt piano variation linked to misfortune and death for more than 150 years was presented by a set of twins - this time, without a hitch.

The 800-member audience rose to its feet Thursday night to applaud the performance by John and Richard Contiguglia of Franz Liszt's "Great Concert Piece on Mendelssohn's 'Songs Without Words'". The 52-year-old twins are credited with discovering the piece in 1973.

Liszt, the Hungarian composer, wrote the variation on Mendelssohn's music in 1835. He collapsed at the keyboard during the premiere of the piece that year.

The Contiguglias, who are from this central New York Town but live in New York City, were scheduled to play the music Saturday night, but the concert was cancelled when a violent thunderstorm plunged the east middle school auditorium into darkness.

Pianist Ferruccio Busoni died shortly before a performance of the piece in 1924.

In 1986, the Contiguglia brothers planned to perform it at a Liszt festival in Holland, but the Dutch government seized the sheet music, claiming it held a coded spy message being passed from East Germany to the West.

"It's uncanny how many times something has prevented this song from being played," Richard Contiguglia said.