



The Liszt Society Newsletter

No.42 - JANUARY 1990

Mailing of this Newsletter was held over until the New Year in order to include full details of the Society's February event (see separate leaflet).

Forthcoming recitals

* indicates Liszt Society member.

*Leslie Howard, piano, plays Haydn and Rakhmaninov at The Wigmore Hall on Sunday 20 January at 4 pm.

*Stephen Salkeld, piano, gives a recital at The Wigmore Hall on Monday 21 January at 7.30 pm including works by Schubert, Mussorgsky and Liszt-Busoni Grand Etudes after Paganini (nos 1-6).

*Iain Quinn, organ, plays Bach, Mendelssohn and Liszt at St. Stephen's Church, Walbrook, London EC4 on Friday 25 January at 12.30 pm. The Liszt works include Trauerode [Les Morts], S.268/2; Weihnachtsbaum, S.186 Nos. 1-4; Tu es Petrus, S.664.

Peter Katin, piano, plays Ravel, Liszt Sonata in B minor, Debussy and Chopin at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Sunday 27 January at 3 pm.

Before leaving for his native Canada, *David E. McConnell gave a farewell guitar recital on October 13, 1990 in Southend-on-Sea. David's programme included three works by Liszt as well as items by Sor, Paganini and a number of his own compositions.

*Kenneth Hamilton gives two recitals in the coming months. On February 12, Kenneth plays Beethoven at Firth Hall, Sheffield at 7.30 pm. On March 7, his lunchtime programme at Merchants' Hall, Glasgow includes Beethoven Eroica Variations, Liszt Sonata in B minor and the 1st Mephisto Waltz.

*Marguerite Wolff plays Liszt's Piano Concerto in E flat with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall. Sir Alexander Gibson is conducting. April 12 1991.

Educational Course

Ian B. Greaves, B.Mus. conducts a weekend course on Liszt, 1-3 March 1991 at The Hill,

Residential College, Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny, Gwent NP7 7RP. Enquiries contact tel 0873-5221, fax 0873-4817.

Recordings

Hyperion continue to release *Leslie Howard's recordings of Liszt piano works. CDA 66388, Vol.8 has been released with Christmas Tree, Via Crucis and Chorales. CDA 66429, Vol.9 is proposed for release in February 1991 with Leslie's recording of the Sonata in B minor and Gretchen. Volumes 10-15 will be released during 1991. Also this year he will record the Liszt Concertos.

*Donna Amato has recorded Liszt's Liebestraum No 3, Consolation in D^b, Hungarian Rhapsody No.2 (with Rachmaninoff's cadenza) together with various pieces by Debussy, Ravel and Gershwin. Available on CD and cassette under the Olympia label.

Publications

*Derek Watson's LISZT appeared in the paperback edition, at £8.99 in September 1990.

Awards

Grand Prix International du Disque Liszt '90

15 recordings (LP,CD) were submitted from 6 countries. The jury of 17 members was chaired by Professor György Kuroo. The 1990 prize was awarded to Peter Donohoe, piano, for his recording of the Sonata in B minor and Bagatelle sans tonalité. EMI (Great Britain) CDC 749916 2.

The jury said of Donohoe's recording : "His playing is large-scale, mature and varied; the B minor sonata as a whole, as well as in detail, is articulated with musicality, persuasiveness and feeling. His voice-leading is intelligent and crystal clear, as is his overall sound; his rhythm is accurate and lively, his tone beautiful and richly shaded. No less excellent is his performance of the Bagatelle without tonality, in which he brings out the characteristic late Liszt-Mephisto sarcasm and resigned elegant wit."

The other three award winners were :

EX LIBRIS (BRD) CD6088, Boris Bloch, klavier, Operaparaphrasen.

CAPRICCIO (BRD) 10294, Mitsuko Shirai, Harmut Höll, piano, 16 Liszt Lieder.

PHILIPS (Holland) 422 3802, Zoltan Kocsis,

piano, Budapest Festival Orchestra, cond. Ivan Fischer. Liszt: The Piano Concertos.

APR (GB) 7008, Simon Barere at the Carnegie Hall. Liszt, Piano Concerto No.1 in E flat, Piano Sonata in B minor, etc.

LOS ANGELES Piano Competition

*Geraldine Keeling, Director of the competition has sent the following report: "The first Los Angeles Liszt Competition was held on Saturday, November 3 1990, in Pasadena, California. It was co-sponsored by the Pasadena branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California and members of the American Liszt Society and of the Hungarian community.

Forty-seven students participated in the auditions. Pianists were heard in three divisions: ages 12 and under, ages 13-16, and ages 17-25. Vocalists were heard in one division: ages 28 and under.

The evening concert featured an illustrated tour of the Budapest Liszt Museum given by Mária Eckhardt, director of the Liszt Ferenc Museum and Research Centre in Budapest, and performances by the first prize winners. The evening concluded with the awarding of over two thousand dollars worth of prizes (including cash, plaques, and many copies of recent Liszt books and recordings) and the announcement of the grand prize winner.

Judges for the competition were Ick Choo Moon, head of the piano faculty at UCLA; Tamás Ungár, head of the piano faculty at Texas Christian University; Bruce McClurg, assistant professor of voice at Redlands University; and Maria Eckhardt.

Directors for the competition are Geraldine Keeling, member of both the Liszt Society and the American Liszt Society, and Judith Neslány, member of the American Liszt Society.

The Los Angeles Liszt Competition will be a biennial event. Among those participating in 1992 will be Alan Walker and Fernando Lares."

LISZT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS :

Volumes 1-7 are published by Schott & Co Ltd., 48 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 2BN. At the time of writing, Schott have volumes 2-7 in stock. Volume 1 is available, but not in stock. You are reminded that Schott allows a discount on list prices to paid-up members of the Liszt Society. The Secretary holds a stock of Vol.8, Liszt's piano transcription of Berlioz's King Lear Overture (accompanying notes by Leslie Howard and Robert Threlfall). Price £8.00 inc p&p.

Vol.9 - Piano Piece in A Flat - is published by Bardic Edition, price £2.50, available directly from Bardic Edition, 6 Fairfax Crescent, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 2ES (tel 0296-28609) or from their distributors, Drumblade Music, 6 Canal Street, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB2 3ET (tel 0224-636669).

Bardic Edition inform us that they have no connection with Robertson Publications.

Correspondence from Members : *Margaret Ellaway has drawn our attention to Keith Harding's World of Mechanical Music - an award-winning museum of Musical Boxes, Automata and Mechanical Music Instruments. "A unique experience in sound" is offered by the museum which is situated in a charming Cotswold village. A special catalogue of all the piano rolls featuring Liszt works is being compiled (details in a future Newsletter). Leaflets about the museum are available from the Secretary.

*Raymon Ford in Singapore is interested to receive information about rings worn by Liszt. "One biography mentions a ring with a skull design." Any information to Raymon Ford, Western Geophysical Co, PO Box 94, Thomson Road P.O., Singapore 9157.

*Arthur Mason writes about Louis Kentner's Vox Turnabout recordings. Arthur has been trying to find out who owns the actual copyright. He writes: "Target Records are releasing CDs of a section of the original Vox catalogue, including some pieces played by Brendel, but there are no plans for Kentner recordings in the UK." Arthur Mason urges members to guard all original vinyl material carefully for the indefinite future.

Liszt's Piano Concerto No 3 in E flat : In Newsletter 41 a paragraph from the press release issued by Worthing Town Hall was quoted. The release mentioned that the score of the concerto had been discovered in a Vienna library. California member, Geraldine Keeling (an ALS director) writes to say this is incorrect, the relevant manuscripts are in Weimar, Leningrad and Nuremberg. It was while Jay Rosenblatt was in Budapest that he first saw a copy of the Leningrad manuscript. Miss Keeling writes "Liszt's manuscript, with three folios missing, is in Leningrad. A simple folio of the autograph is in Nuremberg. The Weimar manuscript is a copyist's MS in which the piano part is omitted."

Obituaries :

Jorge Bolet : Members throughout the world learnt with great sadness on October 16 1990 of the death of the American virtuoso pianist, Jorge Bolet, aged 75. Bolet won the Grand Prix International du Disque Liszt three times. He became head of the piano department of the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia in succession to Josef Hofmann and Rudolf Serkin. Born in Havana, Cuba it was to the Curtis that Bolet went at the age of 12 having won a scholarship to study there.

Crystal Macnab, a former member of the Society's Council, died in August, 1990. Crystal was intensely musical and gave numerous piano recitals in aid of many charitable causes. Crystal studied with Marguerite Wolff for many years. Liszt Society members enjoyed Crystal's hospitality when she hosted an event at her country house some years ago. Crystal was a direct descendant of Admiral St. Vincent. Her first husband, a general, died in his 40's. The son of the first marriage was killed in Germany aged 21. She subsequently married George Macnab, Dean of Westminster Hospital, a man with a fine baritone voice.

[Compiled August 1990, for The Liszt Society by J. Audrey Ellison]

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