

The Liszt Society

Newsletter No. 52 - September 1993

Subscriptions: These were due for the 93/94 membership year on 1 July 1993. The rates are U.K. members £15 p.a.; U.K. students £8 p.a.; Overseas members £18 p.a..

Please send subscriptions for the attention of the Secretary at 7 Richmond Court, 356 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London, SW15 6TN. New members are still much needed. Application forms are obtainable from the Secretary.

Covenants: The Society is a registered charity, so if you are a tax payer, you can help it to benefit financially by deciding to subscribe by covenant. Forms for this purpose can be obtained from the Secretary.

FORTHCOMING LISZT SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Michael Thalmann, pianist, gives the second recital in the series being held at WHITELEY'S ATRIUM, QUEENSWAY, LONDON, W2, on Thursday 21 October at 8:30 p.m.

Programme

F Liszt From *Douze études d'exécution transcendante* S139

No.1 *Prelude*

No.2 (untitled)

No.7 *Eroica*

No.11 *Harmonies du soir*

F Schubert *Wandererfantasie* C major op.15 D760

Interval

F Liszt *Première Ballade: Le chant du croisé* D Flat major S170

Deuxième ballade B minor S171

Schubert Liszt *Gretchen am Spinnrade* S558 Nr.8

De Müller und der Bach

from *Die schöne Müllerin* S565 No.2

Der Wanderer S558 No.11

Michael Thalmann was born in Berne where he studied at the Conservatory of Music with Erika Radermacher and Tomasz Herbut. The Whiteleys event is Michael's London debut recital.

Admission by programme at a cost of £5 for both members and guests. Please contact JOHN DAVIES Tel: 081 893 7288 (work no.) or in writing to John at "The Ravens", 19 Birch Grove, Hook, Hants. RG27 9HH enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

Austrian Institute Concert will be held at the Austrian Institute, 28 Rutland Gate, London SW7 by kind permission of the Director, Dr Peter Marginter, on Sunday 14 November at 3 p.m.. The pianist will be Dr Kenneth Hamilton, member of Council. This concert is dedicated to the memory of Vice-President Robert Collett. Tickets cost £5 (members) and £8 (guests).

Please contact John Davies (telephone and address as above).

MEMBERS' NEWS

Stephen Coombs, piano, gave a recital of works by Beethoven, Brahms, Mrs H.H.A. Beach, Glazunov and Rachmaninov at the Wigmore Hall on 24 September.

Florian Kaplick conducts works for soloists, choir and orchestra by Händel and Monteverdi on 24 and 27 October in churches in Heideck and Fürth-Dambach, Germany.

David E McConnell, Canadian composer, musicologist, guitarist, will give a guitar recital on 30 November at 8 p.m. in St John's United Church Hall, 1401 Comox Street, Vancouver B.C.. The programme of romantic works includes Liszt's *Petite piece de piano No.4*, a Sonatina by Paganini and première performances of four works by David himself. He also gives the first modern performances of two works by Ernest Shand and of a cycle *Sei Arie Nazionali Scuzzesi* by Mauro Giuliani.

Iain Quinn (member of Council), organ, gave a lunchtime recital in St David's Hall, Cardiff during the 1993 Cardiff Festival on 24 September.

Iain's forthcoming concerts include a recital at St Stephen's Church, Norbury & Thornton Heath, London, SW16 at 3 p.m. on 31 October. The programme includes works by Liszt.

On 18 November, Iain gives a recital in the Concert Hall, Zalaegerszeg, Hungary when he again includes works by Liszt.

Dr James Ward, University College, Galway, arranged a piano recital for delegates at U.C.G. attending an international conference in Mathematics in August 1993. The pianist was Hugh Tinney who recently recorded Liszt's *Harmonies poétiques religieuses* on CD for Meridian.

William Wright (member of Council) and Myra Chahin, 'cello, will give a lecture-recital: *Liszt's works for 'Cello and Piano* at the forthcoming international Liszt Festival in Washington D.C. (October 7-10). Their recital will include the first modern performance of the preserved fragment *O du mein holder Abendstern* incorporated into a reconstructed *Romance* based on the orchestral score.

D'Arcy Trinkwon will give an organ recital at St Paul's, Hammersmith W6 on 22nd October at 8pm. The programme will be Handel, Bach, Mozart, Saint-Saëns, Howells and Dupré.

Recordings

Leslie Howard continues his recordings of Liszt's solo piano music for Hyperion Records.

Volume 24 (2 discs: CDA66761/2) includes Liszt's transcriptions of Beethoven and Hummel Septets and movements from Mozart's *Requiem*, Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and other pieces.

Louis Kentner on Vox Legends. Two CDs (CDX2 5503) entitled *Louis Kentner plays Liszt Solo Piano Music*. The Works were first issued on L.P.. The first CD includes *Harmonies poétiques et réligieuses; Elegy No.2; Apparitions No.1; Benediction de Dieu dans la solitude; Nuages gris; La Lugubre gondola; Ballade No.2* in B minor and Five Hungarian folksongs. The second CD includes transcriptions by Wagner, Mendelssohn and Gounod and Four Little piano pieces.

Iain Quinn's recording of organ music by A Måsson and W Josephs is due for release by Herald Records in October '93.

Publications

Cornell University Press announce the publication in November 1993 of the paperback edition of Alan Walker's *Franz Liszt The Weimar Years, 1848-1861*. US \$17.95 (plus 10% overseas rate).

From April 1994 The American Liszt Society's Newsletter Editor will be Mark R Hansen. 509 East University, Bloomington, Illinois 61701, U.S.A.. Mr Hansen succeeds John R Anderson of Washington D.C.

OBITUARY

ROBERT COLLET (1905 - 1993)

It is with deep regret that I report the death of Vice-President Robert Collet. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Ruth, his widow, and their family. Robert's role in the founding of the Society and throughout its history was immensely important and significant. Vice-President Vernon Harrison shared those years in relation to the Society and Vernon's address at the funeral service on 4 August '93 is reprinted below:-

I first met Robert Collet at one of the Liszt Society functions in the mid-fifties; and I saw much more of him when some of us began to place the Society on a more formal basis a decade later. Robert and I were both signatories to the Articles of Association which were drawn up in 1970.

With regular meetings of the Council, I soon perceived that Robert was a man of rare breed. He was fine scholar and musician - one of the best. His knowledge of both music and literature was extensive. Yet coupled to all this was an unfeigned modesty, gentleness and a quiet sense of humour which was never far off on any occasion.

Bob, as we all called him, served the Society well in several ways. He appeared occasionally on the platform as pianist or accompanist to a singer at Society concerts - though not as often as we would have liked. It was in fact quite difficult to persuade Bob to play. He generally averred 'that somebody else would do the job much better. When he did play, he was a pleasure to hear. He performed with sensitivity and fidelity to the composer's intentions, without ostentation or intrusion of personal mannerisms. As a writer and lecturer, he was equally good. His work was carefully researched and prepared, and clearly expressed.

I was never his pupil; but I was able to watch him at work teaching on three or four occasions. I noted his patience with and sympathetic understanding of, his pupil's struggles with problems of fingering and phrasing. The number of his ex-pupils who now remember him with affection and gratitude must surely be impressive.

He served the Council of the Liszt Society for many years, most recently as Vice-President.

During his years as Chairman of Council, Bob had a hard task. Liszt Society Members of Council have a strong tendency to split up into sub-groups exchanging anecdotes about musicians. Interesting those these anecdotes often are, the Chairman has, as tactfully as possible, to concentrate the minds of Council Members on the business in hand. This he did. A more unpleasant task left to the Chairman was the pouring of oil on troubled waters. You would think, would you not, that in a small Society of only about 700 members, all cultured and many gifted, all with the promotion of Liszt's work at heart - you would think that in such a group all would be harmony and brotherly love. Not a bit of it! During his Chairmanship, Bob had to deal with a number of disputes; and all his natural tact and good humour were needed to restore peace.

But, above all this, Elsie and I came to know Ruth and Bob as friends. We shall always remember our visits to these two gifted people at their home. They gave us a warmth of friendship and conversation on music, art and subjects of common interest, all quite out of the ordinary.

It is usual on these occasions to say that Bob will be greatly missed; but here it is just the plain truth. But he has left behind him a rich legacy and he will live on in the memories of his many friends and students. His influence abides.

This surely must be a morning of thanksgiving for Bob's wonderful work and friendship which has enriched our lives. He has left us something of permanent value. In the words of Sir Edwin Arnold:

"That which began in him when he began
Is finished: he hath wrought the purpose through
Of what did make him Man."

Vernon Harrison

Compiled by: **J Audrey Ellison** for the Liszt Society, September 1993

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