

The Liszt Society

Limited

Winter Newsletter - December 1994

No. 56

HONORARY TREASURER

The Liszt Society urgently requires a treasurer to replace Stuart Hudson who is relinquishing the post shortly. Apart from an enthusiasm for Liszt, the job requires a working knowledge of basic company financial matters, book-keeping, liaison with the Society's auditors and also the ability to make standard financial returns to Companies House every year.

Any member who is interested in this essential job and who would be willing to spare a few hours per week should write to the Chairman, Arthur Mason at 26 Long Street, Cerne Abbas, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 7JF.

The treasurer is a most important member of an enthusiastic team dedicated to furthering the Society's aims and objectives.

Subscriptions: These were due for the 94/95 membership year on 1 July 1994. Many are still outstanding. 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 21 Ashburton Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 6AP.

A number of members have not received the various mailings to which they are entitled. This has been due to administrative errors. George Morvay, the Society's new Secretary will be glad to help any member resolve outstanding problems of this kind. Please write to George Morvay at the Croydon address above.

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

The first of an occasional series of joint Austrian Institute - Liszt Society recitals will be held at the Austrian Institute, 28 Rutland Gate, London SW7 on Sunday February 5th 1995 at 3 p.m. The pianist, **Professor Ranko Markovic**, will perform the following works:

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| Franz Schubert | Impromptu in C minor, Op.90 / D899 No. 1 |
| | Impromptu in A flat, Op.90 / D899 No. 2 |
| Franz Liszt | Harmonies du Soir
(from Etudes d'Execution transcendant) |
| | Hungarian Rhapsody No. XVIII |
| Franz Schubert | Sonata A minor, Op. 42 -D845 |

Professor Markovic also gives a Leighton House recital (February 1st at 7:30 p.m.) when he will play works by Schubert, Webern and a new composition by Zehm (born Innsbruck, 1962)

On Sunday May 14th, at 3 p.m., Liszt Society member, **Robin Zebaida**, will give a piano recital at the Austrian Institute.

For details concerning the above events and ticket requests, telephone John Davies on 0181-893 7288. Ticket prices for both Austrian Institute events: members £5, guests £8.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Leslie Howard gives a Wigmore Hall recital at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24th entitled *Liszt at the Opera - Encore: excerpts from Rienzi, Roméo et Juliette, Lucia et Parisma, Lohengrin and Robert le Diable, Figaro and Don Giovanni Fantasies.*

Roger Owens, pianist, won the Eagle Star Keyboard Award at the Royal Over-Seas League Music Festival Competition during which he also won the Liszt Society Prize for his performance of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 in D flat. Roger's M.Mus. dissertation was based on a study of the B minor Sonata in which he concentrated on the influence of the last five piano sonatas of Beethoven on Liszt's masterpiece. His dissertation also included a survey of performances of the Sonata (both recorded and broadcast) ranging from Cortot in 1929 to the present day.

Dr Cecil Ewing, professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology, University of Saskatchewan, now living in England, has pursued the topic of Liszt and his symptomology for several years. Dr Ewing has a special knowledge of the theory and practice of cataract operations. It was appropriate, therefore, that Dr Ewing gave a paper on *Liszt's Glass: Alfred Graefe and the Cataract Operation of September 1886* in the session on *Liszt's Symptomology: The Last Fifteen Years* at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada on October 28th. The American Liszt Society held its 30th Anniversary at McMaster under the direction of Professor Alan Walker. The festival, in words and music, bore the title *The Unknown Liszt.*

RECORDINGS

Leslie Howard continues his Hyperion series with Volume 30, *Liszt at the Opera III*, a third double-CD of transcriptions, paraphrases and fantasies on operas by Weber, Mozart, Verdi, Meyerbeer, Donizetti, Gounod, Erkel and Wagner. (CDA 66861/2) This volume includes the first performance since Liszt's own of the *Figaro Fantasy* (much more substantial than Busoni's "completion" of it.)

Volume 24 of this series has been awarded the **Grand Prix du Disque** by the Hungarian Liszt Society. In October, Representatives of Hyperion Record and Leslie Howard travelled to Budapest to receive the award.

P.T.O.

Dudley Newton has contributed the following note:

Some recordings by little-known pupils of Liszt, both in 1910, have recently come to light. They are by Georg Liebling (b. 1865) and Joseph Weiss (b. 1864).

Liebling's recording includes *La Campanella*. It is described as a fluent and flexible account, not free from wrong notes, but with the right hand trills most beautifully executed.

Weiss performs the second Hungarian Rhapsody in what is described as an eccentric and thoughtless manner, the right hand runs being uneven. Rhythmically it is very free indeed. At best it appears to be a free extemporisation carried several degrees further than we might tolerate today. In spite of all this, he emerges as a genuinely compelling artist, no matter how exasperating.

Definitive Edition of Paderewski Recordings on CD.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Paderewski's death, Pavilion Records have transferred to 5 Cds one version of every composition he recorded that was issued - and some that were not - from the very first recordings at Riond Bosson, Morges in June 1911, to the final recording session at Abbey Road (EMI Studio 3) in London in November 1938. These CDs are:

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| GEMM CD 9323 | Chopin Vol. I |
| GEMM CD 9397 | Chopin Vol. II |
| GEMM CD 9499 | The Art of Paderewski Vol. I
(all the Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven,
Schubert & Paderewski) |
| GEMM CD 9943 | The Art of Paderewski Vol. II
(all the Liszt, Paganini/Liszt,
Schubert/Liszt, Wagner/Liszt, Couperin,
Schelling, Stojowski and Wagner
/Schelling) |
| GEMM CD — | The Art of Paderewski Vol II
(all the Schumann, Mendelssohn,
Rubinstein, Debussy, Brahms and
Strauss/Tausig) To be issued in the near
future. |

Orders may be placed through the Klavar Music Foundation of Great Britain, 171 Yarborough Road, Lincoln, LN1 3NQ. (Tel: 01522-523117) at a reduced price of £10 per CD.

Alan T Albesson kindly sent a further list of available recordings by Georges Cziffra together with a copy of a letter he wrote to the Gramophone in December 1993 in response to Bryce Morrison's enthusiastic review of Cziffra's Hungarian recordings. Mr Albesson's list and letter will appear in Newsletter No. 57.

PUBLICATIONS

Gregg International, Scholarly reprints in Music are offering 60% discount on Liszt Collected works, *Franz Liszt Stiftung* edition, Leipzig 1901-36. 34 vols. are bound in 33, reprinted 1966. The editors include Busoni, Bartók, Raabe and da Motta. The final volume of this reprint incorporates a specially revised version by Humphrey Searle of his catalogue of Liszt's compositions and literary publications. Details from Ashgate Publications Ltd, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3HR (Tel: 0152-317707, fax: 0152-343151)

Perhaps I may be permitted to end this festive season issue on a gastronomic note by reproducing the menu of the Historical Dinner served to delegates attending the Liszt Festival at McMaster University. The menu was based on a menu prepared for Liszt by his American students at Weimar in September 1883:

Hors d'œuvre	Russian Eggs garnished with Caviar
Entrée	Lamb Chops Soubise with Herbed Mushroom Duxelle
Légumes	Roast Mini Red Potatoes Bouquetière of Vegetables Braised Celery Heart, Cauliflower and Herbed Cherry Tomatoes
Sorbet	Chilled Raspberry Sorbet
Salade	Fresh Garden Greens with Herbed Mustard Vinaigrette
Fromage	Brie with Sliced Melon
Dessert	Apple Apricot Coconut Cake flavoured with Rum
Café	

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