

The Liszt Society

Limited

Summer and Autumn Newsletter - September 1995

No. 58

Firstly, an **apology** for the late issue of this newsletter. My resolution at the AGM in 1994 to try to keep to quarterly dates has been defeated this summer by a frenetic schedule, not to mention two serious domestic floods within some seven months.

Subscriptions for the 1995/96 year are now overdue (since July 1). The rates are £15 p.a. for UK members, and £18 for overseas members (payable in sterling). The U.K. student rate is £8 p.a.. Please send subscriptions to Paul Gregory, 49 Main Street, Feltham, Middx TW13 6SZ

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 Treasurer, Kenneth Souter, 44 Lancaster Road, Harrow, Middx. HA2 7NL

Please remember that at the AGM in October (see below) only fully paid-up members are entitled to vote.

SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY

It is with much regret that I announce the resignation of the Secretary, George Morvay. George has contributed a significant amount of help to the Liszt Society since his appointment. His fellow members of the Council owe him a considerable debt of gratitude for his contribution, and we all wish him well in the future.

A successor to George is urgently required. Any member interested in taking on the rôle of secretary to the Society is invited to write to the Chairman, Arthur C. Mason, c/o 135 Stevenage Road, Fulham, London SW6 6PB

FORTHCOMING LISZT SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

The Society's **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **21st October at 3.00 p.m.** at St. Mary's Church, Battersea Church Road, London SW11. The A.G.M. will be followed by a recital given by Liane Keegan, soprano, and Leslie Howard, piano. The recital is dedicated to the memory of our late patron, Geoffrey Parsons. Members planning to attend the A.G.M. should kindly inform me so that copies of the 1995 Journal can be collected by hand at the meeting. Plans for events in November 1995 and next year will be announced at the AGM and in the next newsletter.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Professor Hiromi Okada gives a piano recital dedicated to Annie Fischer at the Wigmore Hall on **Thursday, 28th September 1995 at 7.30 p.m.** Hiromi Okada plays works by Bach and Schubert for the first half of his programme. The second half is devoted to works by Liszt:

Consolations; La lugubre gondola No.2; Funérailles (Harmonies poétiques et religieuses No.7); and Mephisto Waltz No.1

Hiromi Okada was born in Obihiro, Japan. He studied at the Toho Gakuen School of Music in Tokyo where he graduated with the highest honours.

In 1984, after winning the first prizes at the International Competitions in Barcelona, Tokyo and Pretoria, he moved to

London where he studied with Maria Curcio. He gave a highly successful début recital in 1985 to which the critics gave high praise. Soon afterwards, he made his first recording for BBC Radio 3. Recently, as well as touring extensively in Japan and throughout Europe, he appeared as soloist with the Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra de Genova and major orchestras in Japan. Future engagements in 1995-96 include concerts in Switzerland, Spain Turkey, South Africa and a series of four recitals in Tokyo to be entitled "Hiromi Okada's microcosmos". Hiromi Okada's début album recorded for Toshiba-EMI was reviewed by Keith Fagan in Newsletter No. 57.

David E. McConnell in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, has given many concerts throughout the summer. He is devoting the coming months to composition of symphonic works for the University of Pittsburgh, together with publishing works of his own.

Michael Thalmann gave a lunchtime recital at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, London on September 1st 1995. The programme included 4 Schubert-Liszt song transcriptions followed by Bellini-Liszt *Reminiscences of Norma*

D'Arcy Trinkwon will include Liszt's *Fantasia & Fugue, Ad nos, ad salutarem undam* in his organ recital at St. Paul's Church, Hammersmith Broadway on November 2nd 1995 at 8 p.m.. Tickets: £6/£3.

Horoyasu Hasegawa sent a communication from Nagoya to Michael Short, editor of the Society's journal, giving information about a recent meeting of the Thalberg Society of Japan.

Richard Black, pianist and writer, a member of **The Artsong Collective** sent details of a series of three concerts given at the Regent Hall in May, June and July, 1995. The June concert included four songs by Liszt performed by soprano Moira Harris.

Dr. Alan Walker visited Europe in August/September 1995: the third volume of his ongoing life of Franz Liszt will be published in the U.S.A. in January 1996 and later in the year in the U.K.. On Tuesday, February 21, 1995, Dr. Walker was invested with the medal PRO CULTURA HUNGARICA during a short ceremony held at the Ministry of Culture in Budapest. The medal, which was awarded for outstanding contributions to Hungarian culture, was presented by State Secretary Andras Török in the name of the President of Hungary.

The Liszt Society is pleased to learn from President Susan Amigo of the rebirth of the **South Pacific Liszt Society** earlier this year.

Béla Hartman, piano, gave a lunchtime piano recital at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in June and performed as a soloist with Trinity College Symphony Orchestra under Jonathan Grieves-Smith, conductor, in Prokofiev's 3rd Piano Concerto. **G.A. Higgins** travelled from Staffordshire to attend Kenneth Hamilton's recital at the Austrian Institute on May 14, his first visit to a Liszt Society event. Mr Higgins

P.T.O.

contacted his record retailer who is willing to sell Hyperion's Liszt CDs for a special price of £9.89 (inclusive of packaging and UK postage). Similar reductions on boxed sets. Please write to The Music Group, West Haddon, Northampton NN6 7AA (s.a.e. enclosed) for details. Tel/Fax 01788 - 510693.

Dr John G O'Shea is currently working on a radio play based on the life of Cosima Wagner. He kindly included a photocopy of a letter written by Liszt which is in his personal collection. The letter was to a Monseigneur to whom he was introduced by Cardinal Hohenloe. It is dated 30th November 1883 and was written in Weimar. I hope the full text can appear in a forthcoming issue of the Society's Journal. A second Liszt letter written in Riga on April 7, 1842, is possessed by member **Paul J. Capaccio**. He has kindly sent a photocopy of the letter to the Society.

RECITALS BY NON-MEMBERS

Lithuanian pianist **Egle Januleviciute** gave a recital at Leighton House, London, in the summer in which she played Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage première année, Suisse No. 6 "Vallée d'Obermann"* and *Grande Études de Paganini No. 6 "Variations"*. In 1993 Egle Januleviciute was awarded a post-graduate scholarship to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She has studied there with Professor James Gibb.

Brenda Lucas Ogdon, piano, will give an evening recital in Guy's Hospital Chapel, London SE1, on **Thursday 12th October at 7.30 p.m.** The recital is one of the events in this year's Soutwark Festival. Brenda's programme includes works by Mozart, Beethoven, Rachmaninov, John Ogdon and three Liszt Études: *Waldesrauschen*, *Gnomenreigen* and *La Leggerezza*.

RECORDINGS BY MEMBERS

New member **Chris Nicholls** - violinist - of Salzburg spotted an incorrect Hyperion record number in Newsletter No. 57. I gave CDA 66719 as the number for the CD of Liszt's works for violin and piano recorded by himself and Jonathan Ayerst, piano. The correct number should read **CDA 66743**.

Leslie Howard's Liszt's complete music for the solo piano reached the thirty-fifth issue this month; the disc features a programme of rare works on Russian and Hungarian themes by famous and lesser-known contemporaries and includes four first recordings: **CDA 66984**.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM MEMBERS

David Clegg has written to inform fellow members about Marco Polo CD no: **8.223558**. It is a recording which includes Mihály Mosonyi's transcription for four hands of Liszt's *Missa Solemnis*. The duettists are István Kassai and Klára Kömendi. Marco Polo CD no. **8.223559** includes piano music by Mosonyi and Liszt's *Funeral Prelude and Funeral March*, *Fantasy on Mosonyi's Hungarian opera, Szép Ilonka*, and Mosonyi's *Funeral Procession*. The pianist is István Kassai.

More **Cziffra CD** news from member Alan Thorpe Albeson. Alan writes about the introduction by EMI on Aug 21, 95, of their Classical Special Import Service (SIS) whereby all the recordings in the EMI Classics (and Virgin Classics) international catalogues may be ordered through local dealers. Orders should be delivered in about 8 days. The following Cziffra CDs are thus made available

CDC - 7476402 Liszt/Concertos - Cziffra/Cziffra Jnr Orch. de Paris

CDC - 7473702 Liszt Hungarian Rhapsodies/2,6,9,12-15 (1975)

CDM - 7691112 Liszt Transcendental Studies/1-12 (1957-58)

CMS - 7694402 Chopin Piano Works (2 CD set)

CZS - 7628802 Chopin/Schubert/Liszt etc. *Rendez-vous de Senlis* (2 CD set)

CZS - 7673662 - *Les Introuvables de Cziffra* (8 CD set)

CZS - 7625332 Weber/Chopin/Franck/Grieg etc. *Works for piano and orchestra - Cziffra/Cziffra Jnr.*

OTHER NEWS

EPTA Conference, July 27th 1995

Several members of the Liszt Society's Council were invited to join delegates at this year's international conference held in London. Dinner was followed by a lecture recital given by Professor Edith Cornfield of the Juilliard Conservatory. Her theme was *Liszt in Italy*.

Delegates included Professor Michael Sogny who in 1972 became a founder member of Association Française Franz Liszt together with Blandine Olivier de Prévaux, Liszt's great-granddaughter. In 1975, he wrote "L'admiration créatrice chez Liszt" published by Buchet-Chastel. In a world première in 1993, Professor Sogny, together with pupil Myrain Gramm, played various versions of piano works for four hands by Franz Liszt which had never been performed before.

STOP PRESS

Dr. Klára Hamburger, General Secretary of the Liszt Ferenc Társaság, Budapest, announces an International Meeting and Conference of Liszt Societies and scholars in Budapest on March 14-16, 1996. The year marks the 110th anniversary of the death of Franz Liszt and the Millecentenary of Hungary itself. Lectures or lecture recitals of a maximum duration of 20 minutes are invited. The Liszt Society in Budapest is unable to award any bursaries or expenses: there are no fees for the conference itself, but gratuities and support to the 103 year old Society would be gratefully accepted. The meeting is being held at the same time as the Spring Festival, thereby facilitating ticket reservations. Registration forms are available from J. Audrey Ellison (please enclose sae). They are due to be returned to Dr. Hamburger before November 30th. Dr. Hamburger announces the results of the "Grand Prix International Liszt du Disque". The jury made two organ and two piano awards:-

Thomas Trotter, organ - Decca

Zsuzsa Elekes, organ - Dabringhaus und Grimm

Svjatoslav Richter, piano, and

Nineteen Pianists performing the 19 Rhapsodies VAI,USA

The award ceremony will take place on October 21, 1995 at 6p.m. at the Musicological Institute of the Academy of Sciences, 1 Táncsics u. 7, followed by a festive concert in the Matthias Church at 7.30 p.m.. Liszt's Coronation Mass will be performed. It was in the Matthias Church that the work received its première.

Compiled by J. Audrey Ellison

Contact Address: 135 Stevenage Road, London SW6 6PB

Tel: 0171 - 381 9751, Fax 0171 - 381 2406