

THE
LISZT SOCIETY
Newsletter

N° 88

September 2005

EDITORIAL

Last May saw one of this Society's most ambitious undertakings: a performance of Liszt's oratorio *Christus*. This took place in Leicester and was given by the Leicester Philharmonic Choir and the Leicester Symphony Orchestra with our President, **Leslie Howard**, as Conductor. A review of the performance appears later in this *Newsletter*.

It is part of the Society's Memorandum of Association that in furtherance of its objectives it should promote and sponsor concerts in its furtherance of fostering and improving interest in and appreciation of music by Franz Liszt. This has usually had to be confined mainly to piano recitals, though songs, chamber and orchestral music have featured in concerts provided for us on our Annual Day meetings by students from our host colleges/conservatoires.

That the Society should have been able to mount such a major work as *Christus* was due to generous bequests we had received a few years ago and the decision by the Council of Management at the time that this money should be set aside for such a major event. The pleasure of hearing this magnificent work live at last was a most rewarding experience for all who attended and undoubtedly in keeping with the terms of the legacies and our own constitution.

The reservation of a sum of money for this had in some ways masked the overall picture of the Society's finances over the last few years and, as it must from time to time, the Council of Management has been reviewing the balance sheet of income and expenditure on the general services provided to members. Whilst the Society's assets are currently quite healthy, expenditure is beginning to exceed income from subscriptions, donations and sales and we need to be address this issue.

It was in 1988, 17 years ago, that the UK subscription was raised from £10 to £15 and it was 10 years later that—to cover the additional cost of using airmail instead of surface mail for circulations to members outside the UK—the subscriptions for non-UK members should be increased to £20 (Europe) and £22 (outside Europe). It is with the guidance of the Treasurers over the years that Council has managed to avoid any further increases in subscriptions notwithstanding increased expenditure as postal, stationery and printing costs have risen.

The time has, however, now come when the Council must review the financial situation and consider whether to put to the forthcoming Annual General Meeting proposals that the subscription rates should be increased and, if so, by how much. The categories of membership subscription and how and when any increases should be implemented will also be reviewed.

If you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting (4 November 2005 at the Royal Academy of Music), but would like to express and convey your views about subscription rates, please write to or email the Secretary in good time.

ANNUAL DAY and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As previously announced (*Newsletter 87*) this year's Annual Day will be held at the Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HT on Friday, 4 November 2005.

Programme

- 13:00 recital by Yingdi Sun*
- 14:30 masterclass given by Leslie Howard for students of the Academy
- 17:30 Break for refreshments
- 18:15 **Annual General Meeting**
- 19:15 Concert given by students of the Academy
- 20:30 end of concert

[all times after 14:30 are approximate]

We will be pleased to welcome Yingdi Sun as First Prizewinner of the 7th International Franz Liszt Piano Competition, Utrecht. His appearance follows prior agreement between the Competition Organisers and the Liszt Society that the winner would be accorded an opportunity to give a recital for the Society.

Appropriately, Yingdi Sun will present an all-Liszt Programme:

Variations on a motif by Bach: 'Weinen, Klagen' S180

Soirées de Vienne—Valses-Caprices d'après Schubert S 427 n^{os} 3, 5 and 7

Ouverture zu R Wagners 'Tannhauser' S 442