



THE  
PAST LISZT SOCIETY EVENTS

# LISZT SOCIETY

## Newsletter

[www.lisztsoc.org.uk](http://www.lisztsoc.org.uk)

Nº 96 March 2009

### PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that renewals of membership were due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. Payment must be made in pounds sterling (£ / GBP) and cheques made out to 'The Liszt Society' not to individual officers of the Society. If you pay by Standing Order please note that the rates were increased last year.

#### Membership subscription rates (1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December)

UK £20 (students £10), EU £25, elsewhere £25

#### Paypal

Members are invited to pay subscription or contribute donations by means of the Paypal system. Anyone with an e-mail address can open a Paypal account - just go to [www.paypal.co.uk](http://www.paypal.co.uk) to sign up. It is free. To send monies simply set the payment destination as [treasurer@lisztsoc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@lisztsoc.org.uk) and pay the usual Sterling amount. The Paypal system will identify the sender by their e-mail address and any reference they may give. Members electing to pay this way are requested to also send a brief e-mail to the Treasurer at the same address to advise that they have transmitted payment.

Overseas members can also pay this way and can specify the destination currency to be Sterling - the Paypal system will compute the local currency amount required. The Society incurs a small charge for receiving payments this way but it is much less than the cost of transacting individual cheque payments on overseas banks in foreign currency. The monies arrive much more quickly as well. Once a Paypal account is set up it can be used for many other types of payment.

The Society thanks those members who have already paid using this method.

#### New Members

The Society welcomes the following members who have joined or re-joined in recent months:

<b>Michael Ashcroft</b>	London, UK
<b>Xoan Castineira</b>	London, UK
<b>Carole Hendy</b>	London, UK
<b>Peter Morgan</b>	London, UK

<b>Aron Rozsa</b>	London, UK
<b>Meirion Hughes</b>	Twickenham, UK
<b>Constantin Erbiceanu</b>	Romania
<b>Tish Kilgore</b>	USA

## PAST LISZT SOCIETY EVENTS

### Concert review: Andrea Vigna-Taglianti

Those who know Liszt's music would surely agree that *Harmonies poétiques et religieuses* is one of the most personal works he ever wrote. It was written to enshrine his personal and artistic commitment to a new life and a new love in Weimar: the Princess Carolyne Sayn-Wittgenstein. The fusion of poetry and faith conveyed in the work's title refers not only to Liszt's gratitude for his mistress's many sacrifices in their liaison, her 'martyrdom of love' (as he put it), but also for the spiritual, faith-driven core of their relationship. Beyond the personal, in 'Funérailles' the work has a political and moral meaning too: composed in the aftermath of the failed Hungarian War of Independence, it is surely one of the most profound utterances on the futility and suffering of war.

It was therefore with great expectation that I recently attended a recital given by one of Dr Leslie Howard's students, the young Italian pianist, Andrea Vigna-Taglianti.

From the first bars of 'Invocation', in which Liszt summons up Lamartine's "voice of my soul", Andrea Vigna-Taglianti made it clear that he was going to rise to the occasion with conviction and courage. In 'Ave Maria' and 'Pater Noster' he stylishly conveyed the reverential simplicity of the music, while in 'Benediction de Dieu dans la solitude' he expressed the serenity of a heart that "overflows" with "faith" with care and sensitivity - if, at times, with articulation that was a little blurred. This apart, his technique, as well as his grasp of the music, rose to the challenge in the rhythmically and emotionally dense world of 'Pensée des morts', and in the anguished tumult of the elegy that is 'Funérailles'. The performer was clearly in his element in 'Hymne de l'Enfant à son réveil', while in 'Miserere d'après Palestrina' he deftly blended the meditative melodic line with the extravagant arpeggio passages. In 'Andante lagrimoso' and 'Cantique d'amour' with which Liszt draws the work to a close, Andrea Vigna-Taglianti captured the requisite mood of quiet reflection with playing that was both subtle and committed to the music.

Andrea Vigna-Taglianti already has a technique that will surely gain in articulation and resonance as he matures as an artist. To hear a young pianist play one of the most challenging works in the repertoire with such insight and panache was both a privilege and a pleasure. Bravo!

Meirion Hughes

## FUTURE LISZT SOCIETY EVENTS

Tickets for the following events can be obtained from John Davies, 388-394 Staines Road, Bedfont, Middlesex TW14 8BT (Tel. 020 8893 7288)

Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope for receipt

**Saturday 25 April 2009 at 3pm** Liszt Society members £10 / guests £20  
Soirée (afternoon/evening) at the home of Dave Butt - with buffet and drinks  
Court Gardens, Court Farm Mews, Bristol Road  
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3RA (Tel. 01453-827614)

**Sunday 21 June 2009 at 3pm**  
Recital - artist(s) to be confirmed  
Blüthner Piano Centre Ltd  
1 Davies Street, Berkeley Square, London W1K 3DB

**Saturday 8 August 2009 at 7pm**  
Soirée/Recital at Marlow - with buffet supper and wine  
Vine House, 9 Glade Road, Marlow SL7 1DZ  
Artist(s) to be confirmed

**Sunday 20 September 2009 at 3pm**  
Recital - artist(s) to be confirmed  
Blüthner Piano Centre Ltd  
1 Davies Street, Berkeley Square, London W1K 3DB

**Wednesday 18 November 2009**  
Joint event by the Alkan Society and the Liszt Society  
Pianists to include Leslie Howard  
Steinway Hall, 44 Marylebone Lane, London W1U 2DB

## **EVENTS FEATURING LISZT SOCIETY MEMBERS**

**Wednesday 18 March 2009 at 7pm**  
Coady Green - piano  
Blüthner Piano Centre Ltd  
1 Davies Street, Berkeley Square, London W1K 3DB  
(Tel. 020 7753 0533; Fax 020 7753 0535)  
RSVP (acceptances only) by post, telephone and fax, or e-mail [info@bluthner.co.uk](mailto:info@bluthner.co.uk)  
**Schubert** - Sonata in A major, D.664  
**Czerny** - Three pieces - Etude mélodieuse; Chanson sans paroles; Toccata, opus 92  
**Schumann** - Exercises in the form of free Variations based on a theme by Beethoven  
**Liszt** - Pensée des morts  
**Mendelssohn** - Trios Etudes, opus 104b  
**Stravinsky** - Trios mouvements de Petrouchka

**Thursday 30 April 2009 at 7pm** tickets £15 [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)  
Concert in aid of Music in Zimbabwe I Tel. 020 7638 8891  
Musicians to include Leslie Howard and Hamish Milne  
St. Peters, Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AL

**Wednesday 6 May 2009 at 7pm** tickets £15 [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)  
Concert in aid of Music in Zimbabwe II Tel. 020 7638 8891  
Musicians to include Leslie Howard, Piers Lane and Coady Green  
Guildhall School of Music & Drama  
Silk Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 8DT

## **OTHER CONCERTS AND EVENTS**

**Wednesday 3 June 2009 at 5pm** tickets £20  
Liszt in Swaledale - a celebration [Talk and concert at 5pm; Buffet at 6.15pm]  
King's Head Hotel, Richmond, North Yorkshire  
Tickets, to include wine/soft drinks and finger buffet

On 27 January 1841 the Liszt played a concert in the ballroom of the King's Head Hotel in Richmond, Yorkshire. In celebration of this historic event, the prodigious young pianist Simon Passmore will give an hour-long recital of Liszt's compositions and other popular music of the time – in the same, recently-restored ballroom. Broadcaster, writer and music scholar Dr. Kenneth Birkin will start the proceedings with a short talk on the great man and his music, and after the concert there will be a chance to meet our modern-day 'Liszt' and enjoy a glass of wine and a finger buffet in the restaurant. There will even be some students from Richmond School serving food in elegant 1841-style dress.

This event is part of the Swaledale Festival. Visit [www.swaledale-festival.org.uk](http://www.swaledale-festival.org.uk) for further information. For tickets visit local Tourist Information Centres, or telephone the festival Box Office - 01748 880019.

**Sunday 15 March 2009 at 3pm**

Royal Festival Hall, London

Schumann, Schubert/Liszt and Liszt

Boris Berezovsky – piano

**Wednesday 25 March 2009 at 6.45pm**

The Alkan Society at Steinway Hall

44 Marylebone Lane, London W1U 2DB

Fantasia & Fugue in G minor, BWV542

(Bach-Liszt)

1st movement of Concerto No.3 in C  
minor, opus 37 (Beethoven-Alkan)

Liebesbotschaft (Schubert-Liszt)

A Midsummer Night's Dream:

Wedding March and Elves' Dance

(Mendelssohn-Liszt)

Bourrée d'Auvergne, opus 29 (Alkan)

Andante romantique, opus 13/2 (Alkan)

Le Chemin de fer, étude, opus 27 (Alkan)

Nuages gris (Liszt)

Csárdás macabre (Liszt)

Palpitemento (Alkan)

Marche triomphale, opus 24/27 (Alkan)

Thomas Wakefield - piano

Tickets can be acquired by sending, in advance, a suggested donation of £12 (for the concert and a glass of wine) to:  
The Secretary, The Alkan Society,  
42, St. Alban's Hill, Hemel Hempstead,  
Hertfordshire, HP3 9NG

Please also indicate whether you would prefer red or white wine at the interval

**Wednesday 21 October 2009 at**

**7.30pm**

Royal Festival Hall, London

Liszt (La lugubre gondola, orch. Adams),

Beethoven, Mendelssohn

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Maria João Pires - piano

Trevor Pinnock - conductor

**Saturday 1 May 2010 at 7.30pm**

Royal Festival Hall, London

Wagner, Brahms and Liszt (Faust  
Symphony)

London Philharmonic Orchestra

London Philharmonic Choir

Robert Dean Smith - tenor

Vladimir Jurowski - conductor

**Friday 7 May 2010 at 7.30pm**

Royal Festival Hall, London

Tchaikovsky, Liszt (Piano Concerto No. 2),

Vaughan Williams, Dvorák

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Arnaldo Cohen - piano

conductors from the International

Conductors' Academy

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The Membership Secretary, Andrew King, may be contacted at the following address:  
14, Mardley Dell, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, AL6 0UR, UK (Tel. +44 (0)1438 717 724)  
email: [memsec@lisztsoc.org.uk](mailto:memsec@lisztsoc.org.uk)

Other enquiries may be addressed to:

[enquiries@lisztsoc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lisztsoc.org.uk)

[events@lisztsoc.org.uk](mailto:events@lisztsoc.org.uk)

[treasurer@lisztsoc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@lisztsoc.org.uk)

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