

DELIUS SOCIETY OF GT. BRITAIN

(Founder: Dr. Roland Gibson)

Dear Friend:

There has been a most enthusiastic response to Dr. Gibson's initial campaign for the promotion of a new DELIUS SOCIETY, with over 150 enquiries and letters of good wishes.

With the news of the 1962 Delius Centenary Celebrations and Festival which is being organised in Bradford, this would appear to be the right moment to formulate plans for a Society whose dedication is to encourage a wider knowledge and understanding of Delius, his life and music.

It is therefore proposed to invite subscriptions to the Society at the fee of One Guinea per annum (commencing from date of enrolment) for London members and 10/6d for country members living 50 miles or more away. Students will be admitted for a similar amount of 10/6d annually. There is NO entrance fee.

The executive committee will endeavour to arrange monthly evenings with a strong Delius interest, either with recitals, lectures or records and giving a forum - where possible - to talented young artistes on the threshold of a professional career. The programmes will include works by British composers who were contemporaries. In addition, a Newsletter will be sent to all members and eventually it is hoped to establish a library and scholarships. We shall work very closely with the DELIUS TRUST and the trustees will be invited to join the Committee to give us the benefit of their knowledge in connection with all matters appertaining to Delius.

An early meeting is being arranged with Mr. Eric Fenby and Mr. P. Emanuel (Trustees) when more definite plans will be formulated. It is also hoped to further the cause through new gramophone recordings and to tie-up with education authorities and schools of music so that we can reach a wider public. We shall also try to get the Press co-operation through means of articles and letters.

For your information I am secretary of the Schubert Society of Gt. Britain and was instrumental in the foundation of this Society under its founder Mr. George Schubert. After a conference with Dr. Gibson, I agreed to use my experience and background for the new Society and will do my best in that regard, though retaining my honorary position in the Schubert Society. This too, is purely an honorary post. In the Schubert Society we hold monthly Schubertiade evenings and members of both societies will be advised of their respective programmes so as to ensure a larger audience for all events.

Your news and views -- and advice, too - will be welcomed and more important, your membership, please. I am appending below a form for you to fill-in and return. WE SINCERELY HOPE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.