

DELIUS SOCIETY

NEWS LETTER

(Hon. Sec. Betty Ruffle)

44, Forest Road,
Kew Gardens,
Richmond, Surrey.

JULY, 1962.

Dear Member,

R.P.O.

The Committee of the Society have learned with pleasure from Mr. Felix Aprahamian that there are to be two concerts devoted to Delius this Autumn. The first in the Royal Festival Hall on October 29th featuring Rudolf Kempe and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: programme details at present to hand announce "Appalachia" "Eventyr" and the violin concerto, with the R.P.O. leader ~~Raymond Cohen~~. Mr. Cohen, it will be remembered, had studied the concerto with Sir Thomas Beecham; also gave the concerto under Rudolf Kempe during the Bradford celebrations.

The second concert in the Royal Albert Hall will feature Sir Malcolm Sargent and the Royal Choral Society, who will be giving a performance of the "Mass of Life".

It has been arranged that members of the Society will be able to expect one free ticket for the Festival Hall concert and further tickets will be available at a sizable reduction. Full details of this facility have yet to be worked out, but details when available will be forwarded to members in a future newsletter.

It need not be over-emphasised that it is hoped that members will not hesitate to encourage their friends to attend this concert and by their presence point a knowledgable - but not complacent - finger at those who would denigrate Delius.

Home

For those members who have not yet seen the June and July issues of Musical Times, it is recommended that they acquire them immediately. They each contain parts of a two-part article by Deryck Cooke entitled "Delius - A Vindication". Mr. Cooke, incidentally, has already offered his co-operation with the Society, and in the future a debate with himself versus somebody like Peter Heyworth or Hanns Keller has been suggested by the Committee.

Incidentally, already anti-Delius letters, and sometimes anti-Cooke ones have been arriving into the Musical Times. Members are invited to write to Andrew Porter at the Musical Times Office: 160 Wardour Street, London W.1., for copies of the magazine if they have neither bought it nor got it in their library (current price 1/6 plus postage); if, however, they have seen it, it is hoped they will send their ripostes to the anti-Delians to Mr. Porter.

1962 Promenade Season

Another suggestion for written action. In this Centenary Year, as members will have noticed, there is only one Delius work projected for performance at the Proms .. Sea Drift. The Hon. Secretary has already written on behalf of the Society to William Glock, Controller of Music, but so far he has not deemed to reply. It is suggested that members send a gentle note to Mr. Glock outlining their feelings on the programmes this year, and any interesting replies may be sent to the Hon. Secretary for inclusion in a future newsletter.

"William Glock", Controller of Music,
Yalding House, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

B.B.C.

The projected repeat broadcast of "Fennimore & Gerda" planned for June has now been shelved until the Autumn.

The recent broadcast by the Oriana Madrigal Society under Charles Kennedy-Scott with Wilfred Brown, of songs and part songs by Delius was not the final appearance of this conductor. It is understood that many of the works in this programme have been recorded and release is expected in the Autumn by E.M.I.

Recordings

No doubt most members will have already obtained the recent re-issues covered elsewhere of Beecham and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on H.M.V. For those who have somehow missed them the details are as follows:-

- Song of the High Hills, Irmelin Prelude, Summer Evening, Intermaxxo from Hassan and the First Dance Rhapsody on H.M.V. ALP 1889.
- Violin Concerto (Pougnnet) and Piano Concerto (Humby Beecham) ALP 1890.
- Closing Scenes from Hassan & Koanga (with L.P.O. Etc.) Columbia SEL 1700.

Future Recordings

There is talk of a recording of extracts or a complete "Village Romeo & Juliet" and more talk of some Delius/Kempe/RPO discs. This is still talk by HMV.

Past Recordings

Members will know that for some months the Beecham recording of the Mass of Life originally on Columbia and subsequently issued by Phillips has quietly disappeared from the catalogues. It is suggested that when they are next ordering records they ask their retailer about the Mass of Life, which always was a very good set to say the least.

Last Item

One of our members tells us that she has a charcoal sketch of Delius. Her address is:- Mrs. Elizabeth Bardgett, "Killearn" 26 Cardigan Rd, Leeds 6. (Tel. Leeds 5-2709). I understand it is by the late Mr. Kramer, in a very good condition and in a black frame. If anyone is interested will they please get in touch with Mrs. Bardgett direct as she wishes to dispose of it.

Last of all

All members will have noted with pleasure the award of the O.B.E. to Eric Fenby, our Hon. President.

Very last

Obviously this newsletter emanates from the Committee, but the Committee will always be glad to receive news items from members.

Change of Address

Miss J.A.Watson of 18 Aireville Rd, Frizinghall, Bradford 9, Yorks., has now moved to 20, West Lane, Baildon, Shipley, Yorks.

Chairman: David Simmonds.