

48 Charmouth Court  
Kings Road  
Richmond, Surrey.  
Jan 24

Dear Mr Slater

In December, during the course of preparations for the first new Delius Society recital, Mr Tabein was struck down by a bad heart attack and is now in the Middlesex hospital recovering from coronary thrombosis.

Not wanting to see the Society collapse, in the Delius Festival year especially, I have written to Felix Abrahamian asking him whether he would take it over.

If, in view of the long delay, you ask for your subscription to be refunded, I should arrange for a refund immediately, sympathising completely with you. However, may I suggest instead that we date your subscription from Jan 1st, 1962?

The money is in the Delius - Society account in the Westminster Bank, and our treasurer is Mr Pollard, a bank manager.

By now you should ~~not~~ have received a green brochure, followed by a blue brochure relating to the Bradford Festival, as I sent a list of names to Mr Bottomley, the Administrator.

As you will have seen, it is an exciting programme, though I was surprised at the omission of the 'Mass of Life' & the 'Arabesque'.

I shall attend at least the concert of March 31st and a performance of the 'Village Romeo & Juliet', and shall also go to the birthday concert next Monday.

At the end of November there was a London press conference on the Delius Festival.

Lord Boothby, Lady Beecham, Eric Fenby, Rudolf Kempe, Mr Bottomley, Mr Emanuel and many others were there. In his address Mr Fenby said that the Festival would cost about £15,000, towards which the Delius Trust, the Arts Council, & Bradford Corporation had contributed about half, and they expected to make at least

the rest on tickets etc.:. One of the Bradford Symphony concerts is to be broadcast. At the conference I asked Mr Kempe to exert his influence to get recordings made of 'Songs of Sunset' & 'Songs of Farewell'.

On Jan 29<sup>th</sup> Sir Malcolm Sargent is to conduct an all-Delius concert at the Festival Hall. The programme will include 'Songs of Farewell', the piano concerto & 'Song of the High Hills'. I heard Sir Malcolm's splendid performances of 'Brigg Fair' & the "First" Dance Rhapsody at the Albert Hall recently. The 'Times' & 'Telegraph' critics both praised the performances. There has been an increase in performances of Delius works recently. For example, last week 'North Country Sketches' was broadcast, and several of Delius' larger works, such as the violin concerto, 'Appalachia', as well as small works, have been played in the provinces.

Mr Emanuel of the Delius Trust told me recently that they were considering promoting new Delius recordings, and yesterday Mr Simmons of 'Who's Who in Music' told me that during the next two months there will be new issues of at least 'Song of the High Hills', 'Songs of Sunset' & the piano & violin concertos, mainly L.P. versions of old Beecham 78's.

Lastly, perhaps you have noticed in the newspapers lately that Delius' birthplace is to be turned into a garage !!!

Yours sincerely

Roland Gibson.

P.S. Please excuse this tough circular. I hope that soon things will be running more smoothly.