

7 Elm Grove Rd
Ealing
London W.5.
Mar 18

Dear Mr Slater,

Thank you very much for your letter in reply to my Delius advertisement. I cannot find your reply to my first advertisement. Although it is possible that it was not forwarded to me, it is more likely that I've mislaid the letter, and must sincerely apologise to you. I was quite upset, on receiving your letter, to find that someone who was so clearly a real lover of Delius' music should have been inconvenienced.

May I describe briefly what has been going on. Six advertisements relating to the formation of a Delius Society have yielded 62 replies - from musicians, business men, doctors, an architect, a college principal, the wife of a Senior Army officer, the son-in-law of Albert Sammons, a solicitor representing the Delius Trust, a distant relative of Delius, a student in Sweden, etc. This number, 62, is not big, and my efforts recently have been in two directions. On the one hand I've tried to increase the number of people interested, and to that end recently wrote to those who had answered my advertisement asking them to write last week-end to the 'Radio Times' & the 'Observer', expressing appreciation of Sir Malcolm Sargent's performance of the 'Mass of Life' last week, & pointing out that a society has recently been started with a view to helping to revive Delius' music, for it seems to me that only the publishing of a letter might increase our numbers appreciably. On the

other hand I am in process of
arranging an informal chamber music
songs Debussé recital, to be performed in
the autumn, in Hampstead. Two professionals,
a baritone & a contralto, have offered to
sing groups of songs & I am now trying to
fix up for a violin & piano sonata.

If I can increase the number of those
interested sufficiently, I shall get the
Society established on a proper legal basis
& then approach the Debussé Trust &
possibly other bodies for material
assistance for more ambitious concerts,
consisting always of some Debussé, but
widened a little to include music
of some of Debussé's contemporary English
composers.

I enclose a copy of the reply I sent
to ~~the~~ the other people who answered
my first advertisement.

I shall write again later & keep you
informed of all developments.

yours sincerely
Roland Gibson