

With compliments.

DELIUS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NO. 9 - AUGUST 1965

Chairman: David Simmons

Hon. Secretary:  
Miss Estelle Palmley,  
45, Redhill Drive,  
Edgware, Middlesex  
(Colindale 4842)

Hon. Treasurer:  
Miss Ann Todd,  
9, Woodstock Road,  
Alperton, Middlesex.

---

At our request, Mrs. Dugmore has kindly sent us a copy of the statement she made at our last annual general meeting on the progress of her work for the Delius Trust, and we are attaching this, not only for its value as a record, but for its content, which we feel will be of particular interest to those who were not able to attend the meeting.

5th June, 1965

A party of 12 visited Limsfield on Whit-Saturday, 5th June, to place flowers on Delius' grave; if we may say so, a creditable number in view of the holiday weekend. Our Secretary reports that it was a most pleasant meeting, with no morbid overtones. The weather was fair, and our visit was reported in the local press, through the initiative of our member, Mrs. Jeannine Greene, who was present. Others in the party included Dr. Roland Gibson (our Vice-Chairman); Mr. & Mrs. Ashwell, and Miss Ashwell; Mr. Ashburner; Dr. & Mrs. Kidney; Mr. Harvey; Mr. Threlfall; Miss Todd and Miss Palmley.

The Delius Trust administers a sum donated by Mrs. Henry L. Richmond of Jacksonville for the upkeep of the grave, which as some members may know is planted with several varieties of heather.

Limsfield is also the last resting place of Beatrice Harrison, and it is perhaps a fitting memorial that in the year of her death we should be hearing two Delius works with which her name will always be associated: the Cello Concerto (on record), and a concert performance of the Double Concerto, of which details are given below.

September 19th, 1965

On Sunday, 19th September, at 7.30 p.m. at the Odeon Theatre, Swiss Cottage, London, N. W. 3., Norman del Mar will be conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a programme which will include the Delius Double Concerto. The soloists will be Raymond Cohen (violin) and Gerald Warburg, the well-known American cellist, who will be playing his famous Stradivarius violincello, "La Blanche". Mr. Warburg will have with him his equally famous violin, "L'Espagnole", also from his well-known Stradivarius collection "on which Mr. Cohen may play if he chooses". Although Mr. Warburg has played this concerto in the United States with great success, this will be his first performance of it in England. (Mr. Warburg has been a member of the Delius Society for well over a year now). The rest of the programme will include the Handel-Beecham Suite "The Origin of Design", and Elgar's Symphony No. 2.

The box office at the theatre will open on Sunday, 15th August, (Primrose 5905): our Secretary will be pleased to assist should any member find it difficult to make individual booking arrangements, and can be contacted as above. Your Committee will of course be there to welcome Mr. Warburg on behalf of the Society, and hope to see many members.

/ September 22nd

September 22nd, 1965

At our last committee meeting before a much needed summer break, a programme for our evening at Holborn Library on 22nd September was discussed, which has since not proved feasible; and we are not at this date able to announce alternative plans.

However, the hall remains booked, and we hope that members will in any case look on this as an evening to meet each other again, and to welcome any new members who are able to come along, at 7 for 7.30 p.m. and for whose benefit we repeat the address:- 32 Theobalds Road, London, W. C. 1. Refreshments as usual.

"The Proms go Marching on!"

We quote from an article under this heading in The Guardian of July 17th, for those members who have not already seen it. After praising the Proms as "unequalled in Europe, or anywhere else, as a comprehensive festival of music", Neville Cardus continues:-

"My only 'niggardly' and 'square' little grumble about the programme building at the 'Proms' is the neglect of certain once fashionable English composers. I can't find the name of Rubbra in the lists of composers to be performed. What has he done to be so soon neglected? We - or at least I - expect a general discarding of Delius, who is represented this year by 'Paris', not a work thoroughly 'signed' by Delius. As Sir Thomas Beecham argued, the present age is perhaps too insensitive, too tone deaf to Delius's pulsations, to have ears for him.

"Not a note of Arnold Bax is to be heard, which is also rough justice. I sometimes wish the BBC at the 'Proms' would revive certain of our old pieces, even if they have no interest excepting as 'museum pieces'; the 'Villon' poem of William Wallace, Bantock's 'Pierrot of the Minute', a symphony by Havergal Brian, or something of Van Dieren. Each of these composers belonged once on a time to 'progressive movements', as they were called then by musicians quite as intelligent as our latest intelligences who talk of development in depth and time, or what have you."

It may be remembered that last year the BBC advanced as a reason for not including more Delius in the Proms that "our orchestra is frequently directed by foreign conductors and very few of them are in sympathy with his music", and added that "there are not many conductors of any nationality who can handle Delius' miniatures with the delicacy and understanding of a Beecham .

In replying, Mr. Rodney Meadows of our Committee listed 'Prom' and other conductors sympathetic to Delius' music, and further commented that "the performances by Beecham, wonderful though they were, are not to be regarded as final, still less should the music be enshrined in these performances, with no other conductor permitted to touch it", and pointed out that a "glass case" attitude to Delius would be "totally opposed to the aims of the Delius Society and the Delius Trust".

On July 8th, Rudolf Kempe conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, with Greek choir and soloist, in a performance of "Appalachia" for the Athens Festival, in the open-air Herod Atticus Theatre. We are told that there was an enthusiastic audience of 4,000 people!

### Bax and Delius Violin Sonatas

We would remind members that this Concert Artist Recording, referred to in an earlier newsletter, is now available, on LPA 1099, or SLPA 1099, and can be obtained at The Gramophone Exchange Ltd., 80 Wardour Street, London, W.1. The artists are Henry Holst (violin) and Frank Merrick (piano), playing the Bax violin sonata No. 1 in E major, and Delius' violin sonata No. 2.

November 9th, 1965

In addition to members of the Committee, the following members have indicated that they would like to be included in any block booking for the performance of the "Requiem" at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on Tuesday, 9th November:-

Mr. R. Aickman (provisionally) )  
Dr. L. Carley )  
Mrs. W. Noakes )  
Mr. R. Rockcliffe )

LONDON

Miss C. Grinnell (Burton-on-Trent)  
Mr. R. Kitching (Derby)  
Mr. P. Moss (Reading)  
Mr. J. Shaw (Manchester)  
Mr. I. Walker (Wellington)

Our Secretary will again be contacting the Concerts Manager of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society, and will keep in touch with the above members on ticket arrangements. Further details of the programme are: Wagner - *Tristan and Isolde* (Tristan and Isolde), Delius - *Requiem*, Schumann's *Symphony No. 3* (Rhenish)

We welcome the following new members:-

Mr. & Mrs. H. Bates,  
3, Derwent Avenue,  
Allestree, Derby

(Midlands group)

Miss A. C. Rachael Macdonald,  
34, Windermere Road,  
Great Horton,  
Bradford 7, Yorkshire.

Possibly as result of our advert. in The Gramophone

Mr. Peter J. French,  
Vine House,  
Yalding, Maidstone,  
Kent.

As result of our advert. in The Gramophone. Mr. French is 16 years of age, and Hon. Secretary of the Sutton Valence School Music Society, Kent.

In a letter to our Treasurer, Mr. & Mrs. Bates have paid a warm tribute to Mr. R. B. Kitching for his work as Chairman of the Midlands branch. The following are reports of meetings held on 15th March and 5th May, contributed by another Midlands member, Mr. Jerry Rowe:-

/ "The Midland branch

"The Midland Branch of the Society held a meeting on 15th March at the house of the Chairman, Mr. R. B. Kitching, consisting of recorded music and a short quiz (without notice) conducted by our host.

"Ten short extracts produced a most varied set of identifications, suggesting perhaps limited musical knowledge in a few cases, but mostly, alas, sheer inattention to detail; the omission of any Delius trapped everyone into falsely categorising a bit of quite ordinary orchestral Debussy, sad to relate, but on the other hand, Bach and Handel were judiciously separated and some obscure Sibelius and Prokofiev did not escape detection.

"After this fun and games, the Chairman gave a most erudite exposition, comparing the violin concerto performances of Pougnet/Beecham/R.P.O. and Gerle/Zeller/Vienna State Opera Orchestra. Those of us who had heard the Festival performance at Bradford in 1962 by Cohen/Kempe/R.P.O. had special reason to note with interest the remarkable differences both in balance and interpretation clearly to be heard in these recordings, Beecham's tempi in particular showing up well against the stolid Gerle/Zeller version (and also the rather guarded Kempe)."

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Midland Branch of the Society completed its Spring programme on 5th May with an evening of performances by members, assisted by Mr. Lyndon Jenkins, a most welcome guest. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bates were our very generous hosts, and the parade of considerable talents was skilfully managed by the Chairman, Mr. R. B. Kitching.

"Mr. Bates (cello) and Mrs. Bates (piano) showed the gloss of long standing partnership in three polished performances, and with Lyndon Jenkins (violin) tackled the formidable Mendelssohn trio with aplomb. Brian Dunn's bassoon pitched elegantly soft in an attractive Arne sonata, delicately accompanied by Shirley Clover. Coral Crinnell delighted us with four 20th century songs, including two by Delius, showing to fine effect in 'To Daffodils'. She was ably accompanied by Dick Kitching. (Miss Crinnell wishes to thank fellow-member, Mr. Robert Wright, for kind assistance given her in rehearsals).

"Delius' second violin sonata, scarcely familiar to us, but much enjoyed and appreciated, was given a most musicianly interpretation by Lyndon Jenkins and Dick Kitching.

"The success of the evening as a whole was a tribute to the efforts of the individual participants, and augurs well for similar occasions in future seasons."

#### "A Mass of Life":

A date some way ahead, but members will wish to note now that there is to be a performance of this work - again at the Royal Albert Hall - on 22nd March, 1966. (This replaces the earlier programme advertised for this date). Sir Malcolm Sargent will be conducting the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Royal Choral Society: Elizabeth Simon (soprano); Norma Procter (contralto); Duncan Robertson (tenor); John Shirley-Quirk (baritone).

Newsletter Editor

To the Secretary of the Delius Society - 1st May, 1965

Dear Miss Palmley,

I am most grateful to the Chairman for amending the minutes of the 1964 A.G.M. in order to delete all reference to publication by Macmillan & Co. in the sentence which concerned my work. Someone was evidently indulging in some over-zealous wishful thinking on my behalf, and I accept the error in the spirit in which it was made.

Since the mistake arose at the last meeting through a certain lack of explanation, I feel it might be appropriate at this point to give you an account of my work during the past year, 1964 - 5, as archivist to the Delius Trust.

My first task was to produce a proper bibliographical catalogue of the music, letters and other Deliana, remaining in manuscript in the possession of the Trust.

By February of this year, the music had been foliated into volumes, ready for binding. At this stage all the manuscripts were microfilmed. A negative film has gone to the bank for safe-keeping, and will be useful for any facsimiles required in the future. A positive film is available for student research, to be read with the usual archival reading machines.

I have just finished checking my rough notes of the detailed music manuscript catalogue, and am about to type the first fair copy.

Where manuscripts, published or unpublished, are known to be in libraries or private collections, I am hoping it will be possible to obtain photocopies or, at least, bibliographical details for a further catalogue of Delius MSS outside the Trust's possession. I have already begun this work as occasion has arisen, and should like to see it through to completion, if my other commitments allow. If not, I hope the Society will assist the Trust in every way to see it is done.

My method of cataloguing the letters is deliberately slow, in order to try to prevent any further accumulation of the all too prevalent inaccuracies concerning Delius.

I try to trace the legal heir of each letter writer represented in the archives. This has already resulted in the arrival of over 100 letters from Delius, sent to us in Xerox copy or loaned to me to copy.

Each letter is analysed for contents, except in the case of a large series, in which case, a general description is made and especially interesting letters noted. An attempt to date every letter is also made. Each letter writer receives a short biography in the catalogue, and, as not all are famous, this often takes time to unearth.

The Norwegian section of the archives being the most complete, I submitted, with the permission of the Trust, a volume of Norwegian correspondence to Macmillan & Co. for their criticism and comment without obligation to publish. The material was found to be of absorbing interest, and so, even though the volume was rejected as such, it made this "preliminary canter" worthwhile.

/ It was felt

It was felt that Delius could only be properly represented as the multi-national person he was if the full and definitive edition of his letters was authorised by the Trust on the usual orthodox lines. It was kindly suggested that, if this were done, I should be retained as collator, although it was felt that an experienced linguist should be brought in as editor. The Trust will only be in a proper position to decide about this when the cataloguing is finished. In the meantime they have not been committed in any way.

Should the Trust decide to authorise such an edition, their editor will face three problems:

(i) The collection has no literary merit. Its value is historical, social and musical.

(ii) The letters written to Delius are often much more interesting than those from Delius.

(iii) When other languages are employed they are often being used as a "lingua franca" with all that that implies of repetitive vocabulary, grammatical idiosyncrasy, and a certain naivete, yet they are fluently handled by cosmopolitans who enjoy playing with language. Any translation undertaken so far by qualified translators has been literal for the sake of the archives. The translator-editor will need to be not only efficient, but sympathetic to the people writing.

At the same time, I fully realise that the attempt should be made, since the orthodox presentation is so much more satisfactory for reference. Whatever is decided, the work would have to be superbly done, if done at all, and I, personally, would be happy to abide by any decision the Trust may take in the matter.

Meanwhile, I continue to collect, collate, and catalogue on the lines I have described.

During the past year I have learnt that I have one thing in common with His Holiness the Pope, (and I say this in all modesty). (He is, as you know, "The Servant of the servants of God".) The archivist to the Delius Trust is also a servant of servants; - the "servant of the servants" of the Delius Society."

Rachel Lowe (Mrs. W. R. Dugmore)  
Archivist to the Delius Trust.