

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA NEWSLETTER

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July/August 1972

Newsletter No. 200

JULY MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, 29th July at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1, from 3 to 5 p.m. (Committee meeting at 2 p.m.)

REPORT OF THE JUNE MEETING

Only 8 members came along, and 5 were committee members. Nevertheless, it was quite an enjoyable evening as there were so many solos to share between so few players.

CONCERTED Minuet in G by Beethoven
Allegro by Hayden
German Song by Tschaikowsky
Melodie by Hayden
Three Welsh Melodies
Three Irish Melodies

TOMMY WILLIAMS

Blue Heaven; Indian Love Call; One Alone; Women and Men; Bless this House; Own Waltz; Hornsey Road Capers.

DICK CROSS Song of India by Rimsky-Korsakov

DICK CROSS, JEANNE DAWSON
Scheherazade by Rimsky-Korsakov
Gavotte from Garnec

JEANNE DAWSON
Study by J. Dont.

FRED WATTS From No.1 Violin Concerto by Bach

FRED WATTS, JOHN HUTCHERSON
Oh Peaceful England
Romance in F by Beethoven

JEANNE DAWSON, FRED WATTS
The Old Refrain by Fritz

JOHN HUTCHERSON, MR. BRANAGAN
No.5 Minuet by Handel

MR. BRANAGAN
Aria by Bach

HARRY CRABB, TOMMY WILLIAMS
Under Freedoms Flag; Beautiful Ohio.

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

1st August Father Loveless
1st August Jeanne Dawson Anyone in September?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Jessie Harris, 5 Pineapple Cottages, Warmfield, Wakefield, Yorks.

IN MEMORY OF HENRY STANLEY

1. The death of Henry Stanley is a sad loss to the I.C.A. and for me personally, the end of my closest friendship in concertina circles.

All who were privileged to know Harry will recall the warmth of his friendship, his integrity and ever willingness to help any player. He was an excellent "Duet" player and also played the treble and baritone. In addition, he acquired a good working knowledge of other concertina keyboards.

His arrangements for the concertina were written in copperplate style and have been performed in many parts of the world and also featured by various members at our own meetings. The test pieces for the "Duet" at our Festivals were all arranged by him and included excerpts from the works of Mozart, Handel, Tschaikowsky, Bizet and Edward German.

In 1904 he started to learn the "Duet" and encountered the usual difficulties associated with that instrument, not least the lack of a suitable tutor. The only one available at that time was by Lachenal which made use of two treble clefs instead of the orthodox treble and bass. Later he sought tuition in harmony etc., and in due course began to make his own "Duet" arrangements.

After years of practical experience both in playing and arranging, he began to write for other players and these arrangements were graded to suit the ability of the player. He composed several light pieces of which I think the Entracte entitled "Autumn Shadows" was the best.

On a personal note, my mind goes back to 1923 when I received my first music from him. Later I learned from Harry that I was the first player to have his arrangements, so perhaps it was appropriate that I should also be the first to perform these at the initial I.C.A. Festival at the Mapleton Hotel in 1953.

During our many years of friendship, I often stayed with Harry and his sister and at times we were joined by that brilliant concertinist, the late Fred Read, who at one time had partnered Harry in a musical act known as "The Read Brothers". I look back on those occasions as my happiest times with the concertina.

Our sympathies are extended to the members of Harry's family in their grievous loss, and in particular to his sister Minnie who looked after him for so many years and without whose help and loving devotion, much of Harry's activity would not have been possible.

JOHN M.GIBSON.

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2. On June 4th, 1972, Mr. Henry Stanley passed away in his sleep. The world of concertina enthusiasts and players will miss this great personality, not only for his superb playing of the Duet, but for his prolific arrangements for the Duet, Treble and Baritone concertinas. He also arranged full Scores, and was known for these throughout Great Britain, South Africa, New Zealand etc. His arrangements were Saville Row tailor-made to fit the instrument he had designed them for.

He had many player friends; his last partnership with Mr. Fred Read, another great player from Birmingham, lasted many years. The scarcity of Duet players made this partnership very effective, and only too rare. He saw Service in the 1914-1918 war with the Warwicks, and after being wounded, he returned to serve with the Flying Corps.

His real name was Henry Ovens and when he returned from the war, he formed a partnership with a Mr. Smith, and later with Mr. Fred Read, whose real name was Mr. Fred Wade. They adopted these professional names for their newly formed partnership. They were two distinct characters, but as Duetists they were a first-rate combination. They attracted the attention of many eminent musicians, and many music loving people thrilled to hear them play.

His life's work and love for the concertina has helped to maintain a high standard for this instrument. His arrangements and compositions will live on giving enjoyment to artists and listeners alike.

In the concertina fraternity, we are all agreed to say:
'Well done Henry, great work, so superbly done!'

WILFRED PEARCE

IN MEMORY OF MR. HENRY RICHARD WHITE

Mr. White died peacefully, at the Eaton Garden Nursing Home after, a short illness, in his 95th year, on May 6th 1972.

He joined the I.C.A. in 1957 and was an extremely generous person to the Association. In his younger days he played in a quartet with J. Howard Shackleton, who arranged many of the pieces of music for the concertina which are listed in the I.C.A. Music Library. The late Mr. Fred Read was a constant visitor to Mr. White when he was in the Southern Area.

In October 1971, Mr. White gave to the I.C.A. eight tapes and the appropriate music for members to borrow (see Newsletter No. 194, January 1972). I was invited to Hove to collect this gift, and was allowed to play all the recordings of Fred Read, they were fantastic. That visit has left me with a marvellous memory, and I shall always have the voice of Mr. White on my copy of the tapes.

JIM HARVEY

NEWS AND VIEWS

MAURICE HARVEY is home at last. Still very much an invalid unfortunately, but being home is a step in the right direction.

JIM HARVEY is sorry that he has not been able to visit his friends in Lancashire, but he cannot leave Maurice alone at present. He hopes he will be able to manage a few days later in the year.

ALF EDWARDS is home from hospital, but feeling very shaky and unable to go out unaided.

MR. B. THORNETT would like to sell a concertina for a friend of his. It is an English Wheatstone, 55 keys, excellent condition. If any one is interested, would they write to:- Beechleaf Cottage, Sandridge, St. Albans, Herts, or telephone St. Albans 58634.

NEIL WAYNE writes that there is to be a 'Concertina Convention' in Newcastle on Saturday 22nd July. All concertina players are invited. It will start at 2 p.m. and continue till 5.00 p.m. at the Black Gate Museum, Castle Garth, Newcastle. There will be a general get-together, followed by a beginners' tuition session, and then talks on repairs, history, and accompaniment, and ending with concerted playing.

In the evening, the meeting will commence at 7.30 p.m. in the upper room of the Bridge Inn nearby. There will be more playing and a sing-song. Neil will be giving a talk for the B.B.C. on August 8th at 11.45 a.m. entitled 'The Versatile Concertina'.

If any Norther Concertina Bands who are appearing at Southport this year would like to be recorded, please send your address to Neil Wayne, at the University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington, Leics. and he will pass it on to Mr. Bill Leader, the Folk and Folkmusic record producer.

200th I.C.A. NEWSLETTER

Have you noticed that this Newsletter is numbered 200? Unfortunately, there is not a copy of No.1 in the I.C.A. Files, and Jim Harvey appeals to anyone who has a copy to lend it to him. He will return it after he has copied it.

No.2 Newsletter was issued in October 1952. It is not signed and bears no address so we do not know who wrote it. Among the names mentioned in it are: Fred Read, Alf Edwards, Charlie Parslay, Wilfred Pearce, J. Floyd, Inga Webb, Sylvia Webb, Cheetham Walters, Helen Bland, Father Loveless, Al Coomber, Herbert Greene, Sid Ive, Rosa Loader, Teddy Stream, Con Courtney, J. Mearns, Thomas Murphy, A.G.Peters.

Some of the above names are still with us today, twenty years later.

The Newsletter mentions three records made by Alf Edwards and issued by 'NIXA' at 5s.3½d. each, including Tax. It also mentions the 'BOOTLE CONCERTINA BAND' and the "MEXBOROUGH CONCERTINA PRIZE BAND".

Enclosed with No.2 Newsletter was a report of the Inaugural Meeting of the I.C.A. which took place on Saturday 27th September 1952, with 50 members present. The association was then 3 months old and had 134 members. Mr. L. J. Silvester was the General Secretary.

Various points put forward and agreed upon were:-

- 1) To re-popularise the concertina
- 2) To encourage ear-players to learn music
- 3) To lay down a proper musical foundation for the new generation of players.
- 4) To have a close co-operation between concertina and accordion players.
- 5) To select District Organisers for local work.
- 6) To form a Central London Concertina Orchestra.

How many of these aims were eventually put into operation?

It is a great achievement that the Society is still flourishing after 20 years, and attracting new members. Perhaps the concertina never really became popular, but at least it never became obsolete. The I.C.A. Committee thanks all members for their loyal support, it is this support and interest that enables the I.C.A. to continue.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO MEETING IN AUGUST AND NO NEWSLETTER. YOUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER AND WILL GIVE DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING.

This Newsletter is edited and produced for the I.C.A. by Mrs. Ruth Ware, 65 Byron Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 7SY.