

NEWSLETTER  
of the  
INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

No. 223

December 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMASS MESSAGE

Jim Harvey, from his hospital bed, reminded me yesterday (31st October) that I have to produce a Christmass Message for publication in the December Newsletter - so I dutifully comply, wishing Jim - as, I am sure, will all my readers - a speedy recovery from his illness.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, Good will toward men". (St. Luke ii.14). In Christianity we breathe a different air. Midway down the Simplon Pass, the traveller pauses to read upon a stone the single word, "Italia". At that point he passes a boundary line; and every step makes plainer how great has been the change from Switzerland to Italy. The air becomes warm and fragrant, and vines line the wayside, and below, amid the greenery, Lake Maggiore expands before him. As that traveller rests at evening-time, he recognises that the entrance into a new world was marked by the word "Italia" up on the stone on the Pass.

Humanity has crossed a boundary line; up to Bethlehem, bleak and cold - down from Bethlehem, another and a happier time has come. And as we take our stand, at Christmas-time, once again, in the fields of Bethlehem, where Ruth gleaned, and where David kept his sheep, let us listen to the angel choir. It is the only time it has been heard on earth; surely it was a fit time.

The angels' Song consists of three parts. First: the object of our redemption -

"Glory to God in the Highest", as if glory could go no further. In redemption God glorified Himself as He is never glorified elsewhere. Every attribute of God is here glorified to the very fullest in the redemption of man. Love, truth, wisdom, holiness. and what is the result of Redemption?

"on earth peace". Peace of conscience, because I know now that the awful barrier between me and God has been cleared away by the precious blood of Christ, and now we have peace with God.

Yes, IN SPITE of all the chaos we see around us in the world that man has put awry, we CAN have peace with God - and so our hearts can be at rest, because they are stayed on Him who alone can satisfy them. And thirdly, we have the source of our redemption -

"Good will toward men", A Father's heart of love bending over us, loving us - the sinners - though he hates the sinners' sin. Wherever a broken heart is bound up by our Lord, there this song is sung.

If we find room for Him in our hearts at Christmass, then we too, can sing the Angels' Song, for the echo will be in our lives, and our concertina-playing, done to the glory of God and the good entertainment of our fellow-men, will be the more melodious.

I wish you all, once more, God's richest blessing - on your homes, your families and your friends - during this Christmas tide and throughout the coming year.

Kenneth Loveless

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1973,

This will be held on Saturday, 25th January at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, at 2.30 p.m.

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FURTHER REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING (contributed)

FRANK BUTLER attended the meeting at the request of the Committee to demonstrate the test pieces he had selected for the 1975 Festival. He gave the reasons for his choice, and also pointed out some of the points of interpretation that competitors should be careful to observe. He asked John Hutcherson to share with him the actual playing of the pieces, which was a tribute to John's sight reading ability.

The last forty minutes of the meeting was spent in the concerted playing of new items from Frank Butler's now considerable library of standard works arranged by him for concertina groups. All of these arrangements include parts for players of varying

standards of ability, and in most cases there were sufficient parts to employ the services of everyone who cared to join in. Pieces of a lighter calibre predominated, and after selected players had rendered J. S. Bach's "Sheep May Safely Graze", there was general participation in Three German Folk Dances, Tunes from The New Moon, and several numbers from Frank Butler's so-called Mini-Tunes, which have been very popular with his classes.

Both the Battersea and Holloway classes were strongly represented.

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#### REPORT OF THE OCTOBER MEETING

There were 15 people present. The brave volunteer for the first solo was our Anglo player .....

JOHN ENTRACT who gave a spirited rendering of 'Domino', and 'Sadie's Shawl'.

WILLIAM BLAKEMAN and LESLIE MUDLE played 'Menuet' by Marpurg.

DICK CROSS went operatic with 'Portrait of Mimi' from La Boheme.

TOMMY WILLIAMS blissfully swung into the 'Ecstasy Waltz', then stirringly followed this with a selection from 'The Desert Song'.

CONCERTED playing consisted of 'On Wings of Song', 'Three Songs by Brahms', and 'A Memory' by Schumann.

TOM MEEKHAM went Germanic with 'Heidauer Landler' and 'Gruss ans Ober-Inntal' by C. Fittig.

ARTHUR MILLS decided to go French with 'La Marseillaise', but quickly became English again with 'John Peel' and then Scottish with 'Auld Lang Syne'.

MAC and VENA tripped the light fantastic with 'The Gavotte' from Mignon by Thomas, and 'Dark Eyes - Black as Sloes'.

WILLIAM BLAKEMAN returned as a soloist to give us 'Allegretto' by Marcello.

A rare delight followed with MR. and MRS. CRABB playing "Mazeppa" by J. Kok, and "The Homing Waltz". Our second married couple this evening.

Another Duo, not married of course, just good friends, TOM AMASANTI and TOM MEEKHAM, played 'Roses of the South'.

LESLIE MUDLE returned as a soloist with 'Minuet in G' by Beethoven, and 'Dreaming' by Schumann.

TOMMY WILLIAMS led the Buskers with 'A Scottish Medley'. JOHN ENTRACT joined him to close the meeting with 'Marche Lorraine'.

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#### WANTED - AN EDITOR FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Our present Editor, RUTH WARE, has been editing and producing the Newsletter for almost 6 years, the first one was in March 1969 No. 166. She would like someone to take over as from February 1975. If anyone is interested will they please write to her at the address below.

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#### NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1975 COMMITTEE

The Offices of Secretary and Treasurer have a further 2 years to run and JIM HARVEY and JOHN HUTCHERSON will continue as Honorary Officers.

A new Committee for 1975 will need to be chosen. There will be 4 vacancies. Three members of the present Committee are willing to serve for a further year, FRED WATTS, HARRY CRABB, and MRS. CRABB. RUTH WARE will not be seeking re-election. NOMINATION FORMS ARE ENCLOSED. Please complete and send to Ruth Ware by the 27th December.

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JIM HARVEY is on the road to recovery having spent 2 months in hospital after a 'heart attack' put him out of action. He is now lighter in weight by 2 stones, but cheerful as ever. He, and the Committee wish you all a Happy Christmas.

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This Newsletter is edited and produced for the I.C.A. by MRS. RUTH WARE, 65 Byron Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex.

NOMINATION FORM for the 1975 COMMITTEE OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

Four members to be elected for 1975

I wish to nominate 1) . . . . .  
Seconded by . . . . .

I wish to nominate 2) . . . . .  
Seconded by . . . . .

I wish to nominate 3) . . . . .  
Seconded by . . . . .

I wish to nominate 4) . . . . .  
Seconded by . . . . .

Make sure you have the consent of the person you are nominating.

Members not in contact with others, are invited to send the form without  
seconding, and seconders will be invited on their behalf.

Signed Address

Date

To be forwarded:-

MRS. RUTH WARE, 65 Byron Road, Wealdstone,  
(Acting Secretary) Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 7SY.

by Friday 27th December 1974.