

INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

President: Father Kenneth Loveless, M.B.E., V.R.D., F.S.A.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Steve Goodyear
7 Flaxton Walk
Courtlands Estate
Wolverhampton
(0902) 742937

EVENTS SECRETARY

Post Vacant

No. 373
January 1991

TREASURER

John E. Wild
1a Virginia Road
Gillingham
Kent
ME7 1PB
(0634) 55738

LIBRARIAN

Dave Townsend
109 Corn Street
Witney
Oxon
OX8 7DL
(0993) 705702

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Howard Rosenblum
41 Belloc Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 7EZ
(0903) 724125

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Table with 2 columns: Region (U.K., Ireland, Europe; U.S.A., Canada; S. America; S. Africa; Australia) and Rate (£5.00, £6.00, £7.00)

Subscriptions are due on the first of January. New members at 1/12th of the above rates per month to the end of the year.

Editorial Chuntering

Happy New Year to you all. Judging by the size of my postbag, you must have all had a very good Christmass, and got stuffed so full of turkey and pudding that you couldn't find the energy to write to me.

After all the food for thought in the last Newsletter, I have had a grand(?) total of four letters commenting on the committee's proposals. If these are implemented by the Annual General Meeting, you will have no reason to complain. You will have had your chance to comment and suggest different changes (or none at all), and you will have wasted it. I know from some of the letters I have received that apathy like this is the cause of valuable, active people not renewing membership.

I therefore hope that you will complete the questionnaire enclosed with this Newsletter. I am also putting in a spare copy for you to pass on to any non-member concertina players that you come across. If one spare isn't enough, then never fear. Further supplies can be obtained from Steve Goodyear at his address above. The answers to the questionnaire will, the committee hopes, help us chart the course into the future.

I have been asked the meaning of the word "chunter" which heads this section. My O.E.D. defines it as "To mutter, murmur; to grumble, find fault, complain." It also notes it as an obsolete word, except in dialect. It was certainly a common word in my youth in my native city of Leeds, and one frequently used by my late father. I generally use it in the sense of "murmur", but in this particular case, perhaps "grumble" is more apt.

The final item in the editorial is, as usual, the deadline for the next issue. Because of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, I am making it later than usual, so that a resume of the business can be reported.

The deadline for the next issue is March 4th

Membership News

Not much again in this section. I am pleased to report that our former Events Secretary, Martin Williams is now back in the U.K., and has rejoined. His address is:

Martin Williams, 149 Leander Road, London SW2 2LP

Also, there is a change of address for Charlotte Oliver. She is now at:

47 Freshfield Road, Brighton BN2 2BJ.

Subscriptions are now due. Please pay promptly. The Treasurer's policy is that you have until April to renew. After that, no more Newsletters.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is confirmed for 2.30pm on February 23rd 1991 at the Working Men's Institute, Crowndale Road, London N (I don't know the rest of the address offhand). Motions for discussion by the meeting must be received by the Membership Secretary by February 16th. Nominations for election to the committee will be accepted up to the start of the meeting, again by the Membership Secretary.

Events

Alyn Roberts has notified me of the North London Festival of Music and Drama running from 17th April to 16th May. It includes a competition for solo concertina. Normal closing date for entries is February 9th, but late entries will be accepted up to February 16th at an extra cost. The syllabus can be obtained by post from Mrs. M.D. MacGillivray, (Hon. Sec.), 18 Chandos Avenue, London N20 9DX (081-445 6385). Please include a 1st class stamp. The prize is the Arthur Clements Cup. The competition will be held in the United Reformed Church, Tetherdown, London N10.

Jenny Cox has sent me information about a weekend course for concertina players entitled "Concertinas at Witney" It is being led by Dave Townsend, John Kirkpatrick and Jean Megly, none of whom will need introducing to our longer-standing members. It will take place on September 28th & 29th. Cost is £20. More details in the next Newsletter, when I shall have more time and space. However, if you want to register right now, information can be obtained from Jenny at 26 Hill Grove, Henleaze, Bristol BS9 4RJ. 'Phone (0272) 629931. Jenny tells me that the emphasis will be on the music rather than the different fingering systems.

Local Groups

Is there anyone out there who would like to form a local group? The committee are prepared to offer their individual and joint assistance to anyone who wants to form a local concertina group. Just contact us.

The Gospel According To ...

Charlotte Oliver came across the following, which was adapted from the Yamaha Times, via an intermediary and Charlotte herself:

HEAR YE ... HEAR YE ... AND CONSIDER WELL THAT THOU HAST BEEN TOLD TODAY

1. Thou shalt practice every day, even only for a short period.
2. Thou shalt NEVER practice faster than thou canst play perfectly, for it is written: perfect practice makes perfect.
3. Thou shalt NOT put off working on the hard parts; David did not invite Goliath to cone back after tea.
4. Thou shalt work out a usable fingering, inscribe it on thy papyrs and NEVER vary from seme, for Fumble Fingers Find Fate Fickle.
5. Thou shalt never apologise for thy playing, nor say "oops" when thou makest a mistake, for thou wilt only draw attention to things which otherwise would never be noticed by the thick people.

6. Thou shalt practice each segment; that thy fingers may not break off more than thy mind can chew.
7. Thou shalt listen ... and not only to concertina players, for it is written: what this untidy world needs is less concertina players and more musicians who can play concertinas.
8. Thou shalt begin and end each practice period with something thou canst play readily, that thou mayest not be discouraged.
9. Thou shalt always remember that thy practice is a labour of love and that by persistence (oft proven by thyself in other undertaking) thou canst bring to pass many wonders.

Now, notice that there are only nine of these commandments. One more would complete the set. But what is it? Charlotte is prepared to donate a magnificent prize - a tube of Smarties - to the sender of the most apt tenth commandment. So, send your efforts to me, and the winner will be published in due course.

And in the meantime, those of you who could not think up any New Year's Resolutions.....

Correspondence

As I mentioned earlier, not much in the way of letters from you. Only five. I'll deal with them in order of writing, as they all arrived whilst we were in Scotland, and I don't know what order they arrived in.

Dean(?) Glover suggested a couple of articles for future Newsletters, the first on duet concertinas, including the relative merits of each system. The second article would be on current makers. I cannot recall any recent articles on either of these subjects. I cannot claim any special knowledge of either, so if there are any volunteers ...?

Arthur Clements sends his apologies in advance for not attending the A.G.M. He does not object to the change of date, and is in favour of local concertina groups. He recalls ones he participated in over the years in the Birmingham/Walsall area. Arthur also contributed the music you see on the back of this Newsletter. Going back a little further to Bernard Edwards' enquiry about recordings of McCann duet players, Arthur has a cassette of Alexander Prince, but he is not certain that Alexander played a McCann.

While on that subject, I have published information about that Prince cassette in the Newsletter a few years ago. It was from a firm in the Midlands which specialised in transferring old records on to cassette for jazz enthusiasts, etc. The name "Neovox" springs to mind. Time for a burrow in the back numbers file. The committee are pretty sure that Tommy Williams played McCann, so if Bernard can get hold of his record "Springtime in Battersea", there will be an example for him.

Back to the letters and Richard Mellish. He has suffered from piano competitions in his childhood (There is still no vaccine for this complaint) so is in favour of a festival including non-competitive aspects. He finds that the practice for p. test piece takes away his pleasure in playing. He does not offer a view on frequency and location of meetings on the grounds of his poor attendance record.

Marian Janes writes with a series of suggestions about the look and layout of the Newsletter. As my answer will get technical, I will be answering her privately.

Finally, Alyn Roberts. Alyn is delighted by the possibility of the festival expanding out of the purely competitive format. A section for the performance of "party pieces" outside competition in addition to the workshops, etc. would also be welcome. Alyn also asks about dealers in the south-east apart from Hobgoblin Music of Crawley; and leads on to a listing of dealers, makers and repairers.

Well, Alyn, space would prevent a permanent listing in the Newsletter as you suggest, then we get on to the thorny question of paid (or unpaid) advertising. The committee have this in mind, though, as you may see in the questionnaire. We are thinking about a handbook which might contain

the listings you suggest, information about choosing an instrument, local groups (that we know of) and any other useful information. It would be given to new members when they join, and updated as necessary.

Diary

FEBRUARY 8-10th: 2nd Concertina Weekend, Glebe House, Probus, Cornwall.

Led by Ali Anderson. Details from Dave Smart 0726 883456 or 0872 40212.

FEBRUARY 23rd: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Working Mens College, Crowndale

Road, London NW1. Meeting commences 2.30pm. Come early.

15-17TH MARCH: WCCP Concertina Weekend at Kilve Court, Somerset. Led by Dick Miles & Brian Peters. For more details of this and other WCCP events contact Pauline Wallace, 1 Coles Cottages, Petton Cross, Shillingford, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9BS. 03986 414.

APRIL 17th-MAY 16th: North London Festival of Music & Drama. Includes solo

concertina competition for the Arthur Clements Cup. Syllabus from Mrs.

M.D. MacGillivray, (Hon. Sec.), 18 Chandos Avenue, London N20 9DX. Tel.:

081-445 6385.

SEPTEMBER 28th-29th: Concertinas at Witney, The Corn Exchange, Witney,

Oxon. Information from Jenny Cox, 26 Hill Grove, Henleaze, Bristol BS9

4RJ. Tel.:(0272) 629931.

North East Concertina Players meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month at Gosforth Park Racecourse, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Details from Ian Munro, 17

Almond Place, Kilmarnock. Tel.: (0563) 27573.

Scottish Concertina Group meets on 3rd Sunday of the month. Details from

Ian Munro, above.

Produced for and on behalf of the International Concertina Association

by SoNF Enterprises, Publications Division; H. Rosenblum: Dictator,

from 41 Belloc Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 7EZ.

Sweet and Low

J. Barnby

The musical score consists of four staves of piano accompaniment. The first three staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a piano (p) dynamic marking. The second staff includes a *cis.* (crescendo) marking. The third staff features a *cres.* marking, a piano (p) dynamic, and a pianissimo (pp) dynamic. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final chord and a fermata over the notes.

Dear Concertina Player,

The International Concertina Association has existed since 1953 to promote the instrument and to serve concertina players everywhere. To help us to be more effective in the future, we are conducting a survey to find out what the state of concertina playing is at present in Great Britain. With this end in view, we are asking as many players as possible to fill in the enclosed questionnaire. This is not a request for people to join. Anonymity of all replies will be respected, and no information from this survey will be passed to anyone else, other than publication of the statistical data in the I.C.A. Newsletter.

If you know of concertina players we have not contacted, please let us know so that we can consult them. Our apologies if you should accidentally receive this questionnaire twice.

Many thanks for your participation,

Yours sincerely

The Committee of the International Concertina Association

If you would like more information about the I.C.A. and concertina players in your area, please fill in your name and address below, and return it with the questionnaire:-

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Return to: S. Goodyear, 7 Flaxton Walk, Farndale Estate, Wolverhampton, WV6 OTZ.