

Lennox Berkeley Society Newsletter

Issue 1

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Welcome to the Lennox Berkeley Society Newsletter!

At the last LBS Committee meeting, we felt that we should inform you more regularly about developments in the Society's work to promote Berkeley's music.

We're therefore launching this informal Newsletter, aiming to update you more frequently on what your Society has been doing with your subscriptions, and to bring you further opportunities to get involved.

As we've not done this sort of thing before, we'd very much appreciate your feedback.



Publishing Journal Articles Online

At the AGM this summer, Petroc spoke about how the articles in our annual Journal could be a valuable resource for professional musicians and academics wishing to study or perform Berkeley's work.

The printed Journal itself isn't a convenient medium for that, though it's a beautiful publication that we know many Society members appreciate very much in its printed form.

So, in addition to the printed edition, we've been working on getting some articles republished on our website, where they can serve members of the public who are learning about Berkeley's music.

While it would be relatively easy to drop the Journals in their entirety online as PDFs, that's not so suitable for internet browsing.

We've therefore commissioned Thomas, our webmaster, to do a more thorough job, preserving the illustrations embedded in the webpage text as intended.

However, this takes more time, and there are a lot of articles. Publishing the articles from one Journal costs around £300. We've agreed to start by funding this for three Journal editions for now, selecting articles that seem most valuable to share.

You can visit www.lennoxberkeley.org.uk/articles to see the work in progress.

Orchestral Parts

As mentioned at the AGM, Berkeley's Divertimento in B \flat has recently been recorded by John Wilson and the Sinfonia of London, together with Adam's 3rd Symphony and *Le Tombeau de Couperin* by Ravel.

During the recording, it became apparent that the orchestral parts are hard to read. This wastes precious rehearsal time as the conductor is forced to clarify what notes the musicians are supposed to play!

Adam, Michael and Julian have therefore got in touch with Wise Music Group, which has acquired Chester Music, to discuss the publication of a more legible edition of the Divertimento in particular.

Our contact there seems willing, though they would welcome a contribution to the costs from the Society. The Committee will discuss this further with them.

The Divertimento is a highly accessible work, both for the casual listener and for the amateur orchestral player. With the Chandos recording coming out in February 2024, we can hope for an increased interest in that work, and in Berkeley's orchestral music generally, and it would be far better for all concerned if the music were legible!



Lennox Berkeley Composition Challenge

It's increasingly hard for new young composers to make their way in an underfunded field. The Committee would like to foster the next generation of musicians, and is considering the foundation of a Composition Challenge, funding awards for composition around A-level standard.

As a starting point, we've been in touch with the Director of Music at Greham's School in Holt, who is open to the idea. We will also liaise with other state music schools.



That's all for now. We hope you've enjoyed this Newsletter, and we'll write again in the Spring. Until then, do listen out for the new recording of the Divertimento, releasing from Chandos in February – and a Happy Christmas from all of us on the Committee.

Ash (Editor)