

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

N E W S L E T T E R

NO.161

DECEMBER, 1968.

The President's Christmass Message

appears on Page 2.

The Officers and Committee of the
I.C.A. wish all members a happy.
and harmonious Christmas.

The next Meeting of the I.C.A. will
be on the afternoon of January 25th,
1969, at Conway Hall, Red Lion
Square, and will be the Annual General
Meeting. In view of the unusual
importance of the meeting it is hoped
that as many members as possible will
attend. Please note the change of
venue.

This Newsletter is issued for the I.C.A. by the Secretary,
Frank E. Butler, 60, Mayfield Crescent, London, N.9. England.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL CHRISTMASS MESSAGE

The end of this year marks also the end of Human Rights' Tear - and what a year it has been. Assassinations:- Martin Luther King; Robert Kennedy; Wars :- Vietnam and Biafra - bringing untold suffering and misery upon the children who we particularly remember at this holy season. Strikes, Demonstrations and Protests of various kinds, some good, some very evil ending in assault and bloodshed; Inter-Racial Intolerance and bigotry;- increases, particularly in Drug Addiction among young people; more suicides; more and more cases of theft, assault, murder; sexual offences.

I list some of these things in order to cause you all to reflect upon the state of our so-called civilization as we near the end of this year of Grace 1968,

But of course, as in most things the picture is not wholly bad - there have been many examples of kindness, goodness and love in the world - and I have no doubt in our own Society and in our homes and business. Man still keeps within him something of the Image and likeness of God - and the light of it shines from time to time.

The Season of Christmass gives us once again - as it always does a chance to reflect upon these things, and then to apply them to ourselves as individuals, and to say inwardly:- what sort of a contribution have I made towards the coming of God's Kingdom on earth? Where have I succeeded? Where have I fallen short?

Make your self-assessment - then - and when you attend your place of worship at Christmass time - wherever it may be - lay that assessment humbly before God - ask Him to forgive your shortcomings and to bless your good works - and make a resolution to be a better person in the year to come, simply by overcoming your failings. I myself shall do it at midnight mass - and I hope you will also.

We have to lose alas -at the Annual General Meeting in January, the services of Frank Butler as Secretary and Doris his wife as Treasurer, of our Association. They have been associated with it, and actively worked within it almost from the beginning - and have given outstanding and loyal service. As your President it is my privilege to use this opportunity of saying to them on behalf of you all:- "Well done, good and faithfull servants - we thank you and wish you both every happiness in your years of retirement".

You must know as well as I do that Frank and Doris will not, lose their interest in the affairs of the Society, and they will be taking part in its activities, no doubt, as opportunity offers.

Meanwhile we have to look forward to a new chapter - and wholeheartedly support and encourage those who will be called in January by God's grace to succeed them in office. I have written as usual far more than I had intended - so I end, as usual, by wishing you all holy Christmass joy and happiness, and all blessings in the New Year. As Tiny Tim observed, "God bless us, every one".

Kenneth Loveless.

Our President, The Reverend K..N.J.Loveless
is Rural Dean of Hackney.

HARMONY AT HITCHIN

The I.C.A.'s second Concertina Week-End, from 15th to 17th November, was again a golly and worthwhile affair. It took place at Little Benslow Hills, the Hitchin headquarters of the Rural Music Schools Association, and this big country house proved to be generously warmed and extremely comfortable. The central lounge had a vast log and coal fire which was very popular with members accustomed only to gas and electric heating.

Food was good, very good, and we hope the present incumbent holds the office of cook for all future visits.

Musically, the standard was a little lower than on the previous occasion, but the overall value of the course was greater, in that more people benefitted from it. One third of them were attending for the first time, in itself a very good thing. Much more time was given to those needing help: there were no beginners, but a group of players of fair technical ability had no experience of concerted playing, and good humouredly accepted special sessions to tidy up their musical discipline.

Other groups were formed, and re-formed, and they had most enjoyable sessions, sometimes on quite advanced material. Their standard of playing was impressive, and on Saturday evening each group in tern entertained the others.

Neil Wayne entertained us with folk songs to his own guitar accompaniment. He also indulged in asides which showed a shrewd appreciation of the foibles of his fellow students, and of Frank Butler's incessant call for "piano please".

A good range of music was played, but the principal works of study were:-

Selection from works by Haydn
Titus Overture
Selection from Swan Lake
Wedding March by Mendelsohn.

By special request, Sunday afternoon finished with the Grand March from Aida, a riot of sound with sonorous brass and thundering

tympani to let all Hitchin know the I.C.A. was there.

Fellowship of a high order characterised the whole week-end. There was never any lack of willing helpers, good humour always, and hilarity often. Hitchin market attracted the ladies on Saturday afternoon. The log-fire in the hall had its own little coterie into the small hours of the morning.

Sunday morning prayers were taken by Ben Fellingham of the S.A. who in homely phrases expressed our deep-felt thanks, and we played carols instead of singing hymns.

By Sunday afternoon ten Butlers were present, if we may include the son-in-laws and four grand children. At one time all adults of the tribe were among the performers and the four infants were the audience. The children were very good, but non-ths-less, their mothers want to thank everyone for the good-humoured acceptance of the very juvenile element.

Remarks as we broke up after Sunday tea included - a wonderful experience - you have added ten years to my life - and (repeatedly) we must have another week-end.

THE LONDON MUSICAL COMPETITION FESTIVAL 1969.

This Festival has been announced to take place between March 22nd and April 16th, and it is hoped there will be a very full entry of concertina players. Mr. Kenneth Ranger, the Honorary Secretary resigns after this festival. He has been a very good friend to us, and it would be a nice gesture of thanks to give him support either in the audience or as competitors. He has been Honorary Secretary for twenty-four years, and we admire and thank him for his splendid service to the cause of music.

Enquiries

Mr. B.D.Copland, 30, Horselers, Kernel Hempstead, Herts, would be interested to purchase a second-hand concertina in good condition.

Mrs. M.J, Lambe, 80, High Street, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, Kent, has recently acquired a concertina and would like to be put in touch with other players.

NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

Peter Honri is playing the concertina in the Italian Comedy "Servant of Two Masters", due in London shortly. We wish him a long comfortable run, and recommend members to see this classical comedy, both for its own sake and to enjoy Peter's contribution.

LONDON MUSICAL COMPETITION .FESTIVAL 1969
CLASSES FOR CONCERTINA PLAYERS APRIL 16th
AT WHITEFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

ADJUDICATOR - LEONARD SMITH, FTCL. LTCL.

THE ABOVE DETAILS ARE PROVISIONAL

CONCERTINA CLASSES* Own choice, -not exceeding five
minutes.

Class 92.	"English" Concertina - Elementary
Class 93.	"English" Concertina, - Intermediate .
Class 94.	"English" Concertina - Advanced
Class 95	"Duet" Concertina - Elementary-
Class 96	"Duet" Concertina - Advanced
Class 97	Two Concertinas
Class 98	Groups

Entry Fee 7/6d. per class (Class 98 - 10/-).

Official accompanist 2/6d. extra per class.

A prospectus with details of other classes and full conditions of entry is obtainable by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Kenneth S, Ranger, 52, Mayfair Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey.

CONCERTINA WEEK-END STUDY COURSE ; Nov. 15th to 17th 1968

Rural Music Centre,
Little Benslow Hills Telephone:
Herts. HITCHIN 3446

Please report to F.E. Butler on arrival, for allocation of bedroom. Dinner on Friday is at 7.30, and cannot be served to latecomers. Please say now if you will be too late for dinner and would like sandwiches at 9.30.

Meals include breakfast, elevenses, lunch, tea, dinner. A late night drink can be provided if volunteers are available to prepare it and wash up afterwards.

TIME-TABLE OF COURSE

<u>Friday</u>	7.30	Dinner
	8.30	Concerted music making (This will be a run-through of pieces of varying difficulty, to establish players ability and experience).
<u>Saturday</u>	8.30	Breakfast
	9.30	Beginners class, and study groups
	11. 0	Coffee
	11.30	Concerted study of major works
	1. 0	Lunch
	2. 0	
	4. 0	Optional free time to explore Hitchin (Market day Saturday) Members desiring to continue playing will again be formed into beginners class, and groups
	4. 0.	Tea
	4.30	Beginners class
	5. 0	Concerted playing
	7. 0	Dinner
	8. 0	"Concert" performance by smaller groups of pieces they have studied.
	9. 0	Concerted playing (including recreational playing)
<u>Sunday</u>	8.15	Prayers (Undenominational)
	8.30	Breakfast
	9.45	Beginners class and groups
	11. 0	Coffee
	11.30	Concerted playing
	1. 0	Lunch
	2. 0	"Concert" of selected items from those studied
	4. 0	Tea, and close of Course

There is no need to bring a music stand. You are welcome to bring instruments other than concertinas, and favourite pieces of music written for performance by groups. It is not expected that there will be time for solo playing, other than coaching.

F.E. Butler,
International
Concertina Association,
60, Mayfield Crescent,
London, N.9.
Telephone: 01-804-3061

Your suggested route of travel if requested is shown overleaf.
Train and Bus times may vary, and should be carefully checked nearer to the date of the weekend.

Ask for Hitchin Station. Benelow Lane is two hundred yards west along Walsworth Road, Little Benelow Hills is a. large house standing in own grounds on r.h. side of road.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1968

Receipts		Payments out:-	
Subscriptions	109. 3. 6.	Newsletters	59. 8. 11.
		Postages	25. 13. 1.
Donations	37. 15. 9.	Accommodation	12. 15. 6.
		Donation to London Festival	10. 0. 0.
		Misc Items	10. 8. 10.
		Loss re Hitchin	8. 4. 0.
			<hr/>
			126. 10. 4.
		Profit for 1968	20. 8. 11.
			<hr/>
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£146. 19. 3.		£146. 19. 3.
	=====		=====
Amount brought forward from 1967	129. 5. 3.		
Profit 1968	<u>20. 8. 11.</u>		
	£149. 14. 2.	Amount to be carried forward to 1969.	
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THE A.G.M. OF THE I.C.A.

25th January, 1969

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Vote of thanks to auditor
7. Appointment of Secretary
8. Appointment of Treasurer
9. Appointment of Auditor
10. Election of two members of Committee
11. Confirmation of co-opted member
12. Any other business