

Editor John Bishop 14 Barlby Road London W.10 (OI-969 3579)

SUCCESS OF FIRST-EVER WARLOCK FESTIVAL

The press in general - with Ernest Bradbury in the Yorkshire Post an honourable exception - took little notice of the first-ever Warlock Festival, held at the Caedmon Music School, Durham, in June. Yet it was an immense achievement to have staged such a weekend, and those Society members who went along - including the Chairman and most of the committee - can only express the warmest admiration for Louis Pearson's courage and industry in mounting it and carrying it through with such a large measure of success. Shortcomings there were, most notable of which was the widely varying standard achieved by performers from all over the northern region; and audiences generally were not large. Nevertheless, it was a memorable weekend, blessed by warm weather and pleasant company.

The Society ran a music stand offering a wide selection of Warlock currently in print. Sales were considerable bearing in mind the size of audiences and the fact that many people present already possessed much of the music.

The appearance of Warlock's grand-daughter - Mrs Elizabeth Ward - was a delightful surprise. It was not difficult to see that some of her grand-father's looks have survived in her. We are pleased to say she has now joined the Society.

We feel Mr Bradbury's lively roundup of the festival is worth reprinting in full - see attached sheet.

SUBSCRIPTION RAISED

At the last AGM the committee decided that from 1971 the annual subscription should be raised to £1 IOs Od (£1.5), and we ask all members to note this. The Society is now a registered charity and it is therefore greatly to our advantage if members give us a covenanted subscription. A form for this purpose is attached: would all members please seriously consider taking out a covenant. Those members who at present pay by banker's order are being sent a form so that they can get their bank to make the necessary adjustment. All those members whose 1970 subscription is overdue will find their copy of this newsletter marked to that effect !

RECORDING STUDIOS BUSY

The last few months have seen intensive behind-the-scenes activity to bring about three records of Warlock's music. The present position is this:

GALLIARD RECORD OF 23 SONGS AND 'CANDLELIGHT' (see leaflet attached). Your editor was present throughout the making of this record and can verify the excellence of the performances, including a wonderfully well seasoned one of 'Candlelight', which David Johnston has many times sung in concert (next time is November 15 in the Purcell Room). Only a limited number of this record will be pressed and Galliard advise everybody interested to get their order in to Great Yarmouth by the end of November at the latest.

CHORAL RECORD. This is being made by the Elizabethan Singers under Herrick Bunney. and includes the Corpus Christi Carol, Benedicamus Domino, All the Flowers of the Spring, The Spring of the Year, The Shrouding of the Duchess of Malfi, the Three Carols, and some of the items for women's voices. Two or three solo songs will also be included. So far about half of the items have been taped. The recording should be completed by the end of November and it is hoped that the record will be issued by Unicorn early in 1971.

'MERRY-GO-DOWN' RECORD. This record, featuring a wide selection of Warlock's more sociable music and including extracts from his anthology Merry-go-down, is also in an active state of preparation. Amongst those involved is the tenor Ian Partridge, our chairman Fred Tomlinson, and committee member Jennifer Partridge. This record should also be issued early in the new year.

WARLOCK IN THE REPERTOIRE

The Elizabethan Singers - see item above - are singing Warlock items at several of their concerts: in Oxford Town Hall recently and shortly at Mill Hill School, Barnes Music Club and St Stephen's, Rochester Row.

DEATH OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Along with the rest of the musical world, we record with deep regret the death of Sir John Barbirolli, Vice-President of this Society. A few months ago, in answer to our request for a paragraph to include in a Warlock Society brochure we are preparing, he wrote a characteristically friendly note.

BETHLEHEM DOWN SCORES AT HEREFORD

At one of the recitals given during this year's Three Choirs Festival, the choirs sang the choral version of Bethlehem Down. One of our members who was present said that the effect was breathtaking. The recital was apparently recorded by the BBC for later transmission.

'THE CURLEW' BROADCAST

If you happen to have been listening to Radio 3 on September 16 you will have heard a fine performance of The Curlew given by Ian Partridge and the Vesuvius Ensemble. We still have no positive news of the republishing of this work, which OUP hope to effect in the not-too-distant future.

'QUEEN ANNE' NOW AVAILABLE

Oxford University Press have this month issued Warlock's delightful unison song Queen Anne, which originally appeared in the Roundabout Song Book for children, published by Nelson in 1929 and edited by Cyril Winn. In its new dress (the OUP number, incidentally, is U 145) the song has an optional simplified part for a few of the tricky bars; this was supplied, at the publisher's request, by David Cox.

WARLOCK AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

The concert to be given in the Queen Elizabeth Hall on March 15 next year under the auspices of the Redcliffe Concerts of British Music will include groups of Warlock songs. The singers will be Robert Tear and Margaret Price. The Society has been consulted about the songs to be sung.

DEATH OF ANDRE MANGEOT

The Times recently carried an obituary notice of Andre Mangeot, who in the 1920s collaborated with Warlock in bringing out editions of Purcell's Fantasies and Matthew Locke's string quartets.

CONCERT IN GODALMING

Plans are under way for a Warlock concert in Godalming next spring. Warlock's grave there is in a poor way, and the concert will probably be a fund-raising effort to effect some improvement. Local resident Mrs Urquhart, a Warlock enthusiast, has recently joined the Society.