

## ALKAN SOCIETY

INAUGURAL MEETING held at the Waterloo Room, Royal Festival Hall  
on Wednesday May 18th at 6.30 p.m.

### Summary of Proceedings:-

There were 22 interested persons present, including Mr Lioni from Holland. From 6.30 - 7.45 Ronald Smith, in his inimitable way, described and illustrated the two major works to be played on May 26th - the Symphony and the Concerto from Op.39.

From 8.30 to 9.15 the acting secretary outlined progress, suggestions and possible programme. There followed some discussion.

It was agreed that the Society should form.

It was agreed that the Nat. West. Bank at Clapham Junction should be asked to open an account for the Society. Any cheques drawn on the Alkan Society account to be signed by J.H. White and Martin Ball (another 'founder member'). Money would be required for sending out information etc., for hire (sometimes) of hall and piano, for lecturers' expenses.

It was agreed that subscriptions for the three grades of membership should be (i) £2 for members who can attend most of the meetings; (ii) £1 for members who can attend few meetings; (iii) 50p for full-time students. The year to run from 1/6/77 to 31/5/78. Subscriptions now due. Cheques or postal-orders to be made out to the Alkan Society. Meetings; - about three per year (plus the A.G.M.) to be held about October, January, April. A.G.M. probably in March. Time, date and place of meetings to be varied.

Number of interested persons at present in the card-index = 67, this deemed to be reasonably satisfactory in five months.

Volunteers were asked from well-qualified persons to address the parent body at some future date.

Volunteers were also invited, capable of addressing local clubs and societies, in order to introduce them to Alkan's music through piano, record-player or both. These should deal with the attractive shorter pieces that good amateurs could tackle. A panel might be formed. The secretary would like to hear of any society or club that would welcome a talk on Alkan and his music. Lecturers should be prepared to act for expenses only.

Suggestions were also invited as to possible meeting places - which should be easily accessible and either free or inexpensive.

Discography:- Mr Lioni had suggested to the secretary by letter that a discography would be useful. By the 18th Mr Charles Hailstone had already prepared a first draft - which seemed excellent. Mr Hailstone would be glad of any interesting information on this project. Please contact him at 7a Alder Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8ER.

Album for the Young:- The secretary and Ronald Smith have tried to persuade M. Billaudot to produce a selection of the attractive and simple pieces of Alkan that could be used as teaching material for children. No success so far, but this very important idea will be pursued.

The Society will be fully constituted at the A.G.M. next year when it is hoped to elect President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and members of a small Committee.

At the end of the meeting various additional and interesting suggestions were made by Charles Hailstone, Martin Ball, Lorna Gore Browne and Jack Gibbons.

Note:- of the 67 interested persons, about half are from the Greater London area. The others include 5 from the U.S.A., 1 from Australia and 1 from Holland.

J.H. White

(Acting Secretary)

23/5/'77.