

GRAND CHRISTMAS GALA

We very much look forward to seeing you at our Grand Christmas Gala as part of our 21st Anniversary Tour.

The programme is very exciting and includes:

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| 🎻 Rossini – William Tell Overture | 🎻 Bizet – Music from Carmen and L'Arlésienne |
| 🎻 Mozart Clarinet Concerto | 🎻 Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (with dance)* |
| 🎻 Jazz Spirituals set to dance | 🎻 Carols for all |

You can order your tickets for the NEO's Grand Christmas Gala by ringing Freephone 0800 0182695.

Tuesday 16th December – Colston Hall, Bristol – £4.50, £6.00, £8.00, £10.00 and £11.50

Wednesday 17th December – Symphony Hall, Birmingham – £4.50, £6.50, £8.50, £11.00, £13.00, £15.50, and £17.50

Thursday 18th December – Holy Trinity, Brompton, London – £8.00 and £12.00 (*not included in London programme)

Friday 19th December – The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester – £5.00, £7.50, £10.00, £12.50, £15.00 and £17.50.



The NEO *Friends* was formed in 1994 with the primary purpose of supporting the NEO, to enable members to keep in touch, and to help those who would like to become more closely involved in the life and work of the NEO.

Membership includes :-

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| 🎻 The NEO <i>Friends</i> Magazine – this high quality biannual publication is free to <i>Friends</i> and provides masses of useful and interesting information about every aspect of the NEO, including reports on events, interviews, family news, and light-hearted articles. | 🎻 Reduced concert ticket prices |
| | 🎻 Pre-public booking of concert tickets |
| | 🎻 Reduced recordings prices |
| | 🎻 Admission to final rehearsals |
| | 🎻 Special events |

All this for £15 individual subscription, or £25 for a family with concessionary subscriptions also available.

If you are interested in joining the NEO *Friends* then please contact:

NEO T SHIRTS AND MUGS

Made from 100% cotton, these high quality T shirts have been selling very well. They are available in cream with the new logo emblazoned across the front. Prices are £10.70 (inc. p&c) for medium, large and extra large, and £8.70 (inc. p&c) for small.

Please write to the NEO *Friends*, at the address above, with your cheque made payable to the New English Orchestra, stating whether you want small, medium, large or extra large size.

Mugs, again in cream with the new logo on, are available for £6 (inc. £1.05 p&c).



Newsletter

No.1 Autumn 1997

WELCOME to this new-style edition of the NEO newsletter which will be produced twice a year in order to keep our supporters up to date with our work. Inevitably this is only a brief publication, but if you want to know more about the NEO and its work, why not consider joining the growing band of NEO Friends? (see back page for details).

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The NEO is managed by a central planning group which meets every fortnight in Birmingham (The P&P) although the 12 people on it come from all parts of the country. Every six weeks a further 6 people meet with the P&P to form the Extended P&P. The P&P is responsible for determining all matters of policy, direction and management of the NEO's activities.

In Autumn 1996 two regional P&P's were set up in Bristol and Manchester, their function being to undertake the local organisation of events to be held in their regions and thereby expand the management capabilities of the NEO. We are also delighted to report that this year has seen a further P&P set up, this time in London.

SABBATICAL YEAR (ALMOST!)

1996 provided the opportunity for a sabbatical of 8 months. Because the NEO has grown to such a size we felt we needed a break from activity to enable us to reassess the organisation of the NEO prior to entering our 21st year. For the period of the sabbatical, not only did the NEO cease to organise any activities of its own, but it also had to turn down many of the invitations which it is always receiving to perform in different parts of the country and abroad. During the period, however, a radical review of the NEO's organisational structure and corporate identity took place.

NEW CORPORATE IDENTITY

In our 21st year we decided it was time to update our identity and we are delighted with the new logo and other documentation which has been prepared for us under sponsorship by Quay Two Design Ltd of Manchester.

The logo has been designed to reflect the high quality and diversity which is a hallmark of the NEO (nb. only the most observant realise that the 'S' is a dancer!)

You will see more and more of this logo as it appears on a variety of corporate products which are in preparation.

PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

As many of the NEO's engagements come about as a result of invitations (and in the case of the BBC these often come at very short notice) there is usually a highly varied programme of activity which, since the end of the sabbatical, has included:-

29th September 1996

BBC "Songs of Praise" 35th Anniversary Programme

5th December 1996

Hereford Cathedral Concert

29th December 1996

BBC "Songs of Praise" from Vienna

9th February 1997

BBC "Songs of Praise" from Bournville

6th April 1997

BBC "Songs of Praise" from Clitheroe

8th May 1997

BBC Ascension Day service from St Martin-in-the-Fields together with the Vigil and Salzburg tours

(see later)

VIGIL '97 TOUR

25th January – Bristol Cathedral

1st February – Manchester Cathedral

15th February – Bradford Cathedral

28th February – St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

1st March – St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

The Vigil tours have been a regular feature of the NEO's work in recent years. The Orchestra first began its series of Vigils in the historic St Peter's Church in Salzburg in August 1993.

Since then there have been three Vigil tours of English Cathedrals (including Bristol, Bradford, Birmingham, Manchester and Winchester) in 1994, 1995 and 1997.

The Vigils comprise sequences of music, prayer and silence. They provide a gathering point for everyone who is concerned about our future, our safety and our well-being as a nation. They are for people of any religion or no religion. The programme is Christian, built around movements from Holy Communion or the Catholic Mass as set by various composers but the programme is structured so that people from a wide range of backgrounds can enjoy the evening. The music is varied – some classical, some lighter and more modern – and the programme has a spectacular ending with Allegri's Miserere sung in the dark with candles, followed by a procession during which either "Purify my Heart," or "God has chosen me," is sung.

The response to the Vigils has been most encouraging with all venues packed-out earlier this year. There will be a further series of Vigils in early 1998 with venues currently including Bradford Cathedral on 24th January, Bristol Anglican Cathedral on 31st January, and Manchester Cathedral on 7th February with others under discussion, including a large open-air one in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral later in the year.

NEW RECORDING – VIGIL

This has been produced by popular demand following our now well-established series of Vigils and includes:

- 🎻 Celebration Mass (Salzburger Festmesse) – Swinford
- 🎻 Easter Hymn – Mascagni
- 🎻 Intermezzo from Carmen Suite No 1 – Bizet
- 🎻 Pavane pour une Infante Défunte – Ravel
- 🎻 Miserere – Allegri
- 🎻 God has chosen me, Purify my heart, and many more favourite songs



PRICES: CD £12.70, CASSETTE £8.70,

SALZBURG, AGAIN, AGAIN AND AGAIN

Owing to the increased pace of our work in Salzburg, in which the New European Orchestra have a leading role, this year saw three visits.

The highlights of the summer tour were the Orchestra's 21st Birthday Concert in the famous Mozarteum concert hall (given free to the NEO in recognition of our commitment to the city over 21 years) and the open-air concert on the Jedermann stage to an audience of 3,000 who witnessed the Jazz Spirituals and Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik set to revolutionary dance choreography. This can be seen later this year at our Grand Christmas Gala.

22nd March 1997 – Concert in Salzburg

7th June 1997 – Concert in Salzburg

24th July 1997 to 7th August 1997 – Salzburg

International Music Festival



NEW EUROPEAN ORCHESTRA

1996 also saw an exciting development with the establishment of a sister organisation, the New European Orchestra. Led by Brigitta Hofer, who lives in Basel, Switzerland, the NEuO comprises musicians from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Finland who have regularly played with us on our Salzburg tours. Their first event was the BBC New Year “Songs of Praise” from Vienna, conducted by Nigel Swinford, and they plan to have a series of concerts in Europe in 1998.