

THE NEO SINGS SANKEY – AGAIN

On 1st November a small group of NEO singers and players recorded 2 programmes in Edinburgh for BBC Radio 2's Sunday Half Hour programme. These are to be broadcast at 8.30pm on Sunday 15th and 22nd November.

CAROLS AND CLASSICS CHRISTMAS TOUR

Tickets are now selling very quickly for this exciting event, the programme for which includes:

Carols by Candlelight – featuring the NEO Singers	Songs of the Auvergne – Shepherd's Song
Mozart – Sleigh Ride	Haydn – Symphony No 30 'Alleluia'
Jeffes – Penguin Cafe Music	Strauss – The Bandits' Polka
Ibert – Divertissement	– The Rustic Polka

Tickets are available either from NEO Freephone 0800 018 2695 or the venues as follows:

The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

7.30pm Friday 11th December

£6.00, £8.50, £11.00, £13.50, £16.00, £ 18.50.

Box Office 0161 907 9000

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

7.30pm Monday 14th December

£5.50, £7.50, £9.50, £12.00, £14.00, £16.50, £18.50

Box Office 0121 212 3333

Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, London

7.30pm Sunday 13th December

£6.50, £9.50, £12.50, £15.50, £18.50

Box Office and 24hr cc 0171 494 5054 (booking fee)

Colston Hall, Bristol

7.30pm Tuesday 15th December

£5.50, £7.00, £9.00, £11.00, £12.50

Box Office 0117 922 3686

VIGIL '99

Arrangements are currently being made for a series of Vigils to be held in the autumn of 1999, the full details of which will be published in the next newsletter.

NEO T SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE IN NAVY BLUE

We have now extended our range of T shirts to include navy blue as well as cream. Both are in the same style, made from 100% cotton with the NEO logo emblazoned across the front. Prices are £10.70 (inc. p&p) for medium, large, and extra large, and £8.70 (inc.p&p) for small.

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

Car stickers are available for £1 (inc. p&p)

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





Newsletter

No.3

Autumn 1998

5,000 SEE THE NEO IN CENTENARY SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM

Over 5,000 people flocked into Birmingham's Centenary Square on Sunday 19th July to see one of the NEO's most spectacular events to date – Vigil for the Nation. With two stages, one for the dancers and the other for the orchestra and singers, set against the striking backdrop of Symphony Hall, the audience enjoyed a magnificent sight.

The music was rich and varied, based around the theme of the Lord's Prayer, and interspersed by prayers from several eminent people including the Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham.

In typical NEO style there was a spectacular opening with the *Kyrie* from Swinford's Salzburger Festmesse, followed by highly contrasting pieces such as Rutter's, *O Be Joyful*, African songs (with Florence Odonga, one of the singers, also providing the authentic accompanying dance), and Jazz spirituals (also

accompanied by dance, innovatively choreographed by Lizzie Swinford). A modern piece by Walker was followed by pieces by Farrant, Wesley and Colin Day, the latter being accompanied by electric guitar and soloist, Liz Shea. One of the most evocative parts of the evening was the intercession music – the solo improvised flute echoing around the stillness of the square in a way which was so reminiscent of an incident which happened on a less joyful occasion in Tiananmen Square in 1989. And so the conclusion was reached with Arguello's irrepressible *Resucito*, thrillingly accompanied by improvised trumpet, and then onto Handel's magnificent choruses, *Worthy is the Lamb* and *Hallelujah!* with an uplifting and truly spectacular firework display being launched from the top of Symphony Hall. **And it was all free!!**



THEATRES

THE NEO HITS THE WEST END!

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER 1998 WILL BE A DATE TO REMEMBER

as the NEO makes its debut in

London's West End at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket.

Currently, Phantom of the Opera is on a long tour there (until at least June 1999) but we have managed to secure a slot at a great London venue for our Christmas tour, so we very much look forward to seeing you there (see back page for details)

GARRICK 0171 494 5065/312 1990/494
5388 (bkg fee)

Groups 0171 494 5454

Winner of 19 Major Awards

The Royal National Theatre Production

WILLIAM PHILIP MARJORIE

GAUNT WHITCHURCH YATES

JB Priestley's

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

'Thrilling...Must be seen' D.Mal

Two hours enthralling, visually

stunning drama' D.Tel

Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15

Mats Wed 2.30

ALMEIDA AT THE ALBERY
0171 389 1740/344 4444
Diana Rigg & Toby Stephens in
Racine's erotic political thriller

BRITANNICUS

in a new version by
Robert David MacDonald
For 26 performances only

Plays in repertoire with

PHEDRE

DOMINION 0171 856 1885/0171 344
4444/0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps
(12+) 0171 416 6096/ 0171 420 0000

BEST NEW MUSICAL

OLIVIER AWARDS 1998

Disney's

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

'AN ENCHANTING EVENING-

GENUINELY GLORIOUS' D.Tel

'A FEAST OF GOOD FUN' D.Mal

Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat Mats 2.30

GIELGUD 0171 494 5965/ec 0171
420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454

FELICITY KENDAL

NICKY HENSON

JOSIE LAWRENCE

ROBERT BATHURST

ALARMS

& EXCURSIONS

MICHAEL FRAYN'S NIFTY &

HILARIOUS COMEDY' S.Tms

NEW EUROPEAN ORCHESTRA

Following the successful first concert by the New European Orchestra in Switzerland in March, Nigel Swinford reports that, "they are now preparing a grand series of four new year concerts with an orchestra of over 50 and a choir of about the same number! Their operation is growing at a huge pace with concerts in Basle, Berne, Wädenswil, St Gallen, Hamburg, Würzburg and elsewhere over a twelve month period, together with work organised in Holland in 1999. It is fascinating to see a modus operandi evolving in which a real unity of purpose and oneness of mind is being sustained in spite of the fact that the participants tend to live hundreds of miles apart from each other in different countries. The performances are dynamic and exciting and everywhere you look there is joy and a sense of self-giving."

NEO RECORDINGS ON THE MOVE

The NEO's extensive stock of recordings has now taken up residence in the delightful setting of Lakeside on the shores of Lake Windermere in the Lake District. Fortunately, there is still some space in the house for Keith Buckler (who looks after the recordings) and his wife, Janet. As a result of the move we have taken the opportunity to produce a new 1998 Catalogue of all our recordings. If you would like a free copy please send a stamped addressed envelope to:

FREE

If you buy the NEO Orchestral Collection and Vigil CD's (for £22) we will give you a FREE copy of our latest CD, At Christmas, worth £10.

This represents a *substantial* saving of £10.

Please send your cheque for £23 (including £1 postage & packaging) payable to the "New English Orchestra" to Keith Buckler at the address at the bottom of the previous page.

NEO Orchestral Collection

including:

Shostakovich: Piano Concerto No 1

Ibert: Divertissement

(as featured in this year's Christmas concert)

Messiaen: L'Ascension

Vigil

including:

Swinford: Celebration Mass

Mascagni: Easter Hymn, **Bizet:** Intermezzo from Carmen Suite No 1 and

Minuetto from L'Arlésienne Suite No 2

Allegri: Miserere

Purify my Heart and other Spiritual Songs

At Christmas

including:

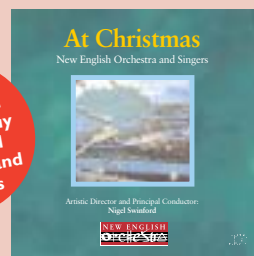
Handel: Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Telemann: Viola Concerto in G Major

Albinoni: Oboe Concerto in Bb

In the Bleak Midwinter

The Holly and the Ivy and other carols



FREE
when you buy
Orchestral
Collection and
Vigil CDs