

Performance Programme

A MILLENNIUM JUBILEE TOUR (*underway*)

Saturday 26th February 2000, 7.30pm – **Bristol Anglican Cathedral**
Saturday 4th March 2000, 7.30pm – **St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham**
Saturday 11th March 2000, 7.30pm – **Manchester Cathedral**
Saturday 18th March 2000, 7.30pm – **Worcester Cathedral**
Saturday 1st April 2000, 7.30pm – **Bradford Cathedral**
Saturday 8th April 2000, 7.30pm – **Rochester Cathedral**

Entry is free and an offering will be taken

FASCINATIN' RHYTHM

(A UNIQUE EVENING OF MUSIC, COMEDY AND CONVERSATION)

Saturday 7th October 2000, 8.00pm – **Grand Hotel, Birmingham**
(All tickets £15 including a glass of wine and light refreshments at your table)
Saturday 14th October 2000, 8.00pm – **Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester**
(All tickets £15 including a glass of wine and light refreshments at your table)
Saturday 21st October 2000, 8.00pm – **Jarvis International, Bristol**
(All tickets £15 including a glass of wine and light refreshments at your table)
Saturday 28th October 2000, 7.30pm – **Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking**
(All tickets £27.50 (or £100 for 4) including a two course buffet supper)
Tickets available from April 1st 2000 on the NEO Freephone 0800 0182695

CHRISTMAS CONCERT TOUR 2000

Friday 1st December 2000 – **The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester**
Saturday 2nd December 2000 – **Colston Hall, Bristol**
Tuesday 5th December 2000 – **Symphony Hall, Birmingham**
Friday 8th December 2000 – **St Paul's Church, Hammersmith, London**
Tickets available from September 1st 2000 on the NEO Freephone 0800 0182695

NEO RECORDINGS

For a free copy of our recordings catalogue please contact:

JOIN OUR FREE MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive details of the NEO's future events and your own copy of this newsletter free, then please send your name and address to:

n.b. please note that the NEO's mailing list is managed on our behalf by the Bristol Christian Resource Centre, itself a charity. Neither we, nor they, use your name and address for any purpose other than NEO mailings. If, for any reason, you no longer wish to receive our mailings and have your name and address removed from our database then please write to us. Thank you.

Newsletter SPRING 2000 6

THE NEO IS NOW A CHARITY

Having operated as a charitable organisation in deed for many years the NEO finally took the plunge at the end of last year and became registered as a company limited by guarantee and as a charity.

Now that the NEO is a registered charity, Deeds of Covenant and Gift Aid are the most efficient way of making a donation to the NEO. At present, if you are a taxpayer and make a regular donation over a four year period (of any amount, however small) or a one-off gift of £250 or more we can reclaim the tax you have paid on the amount donated, thus increasing the value of your gift by 23% for a basic rate taxpayer at no additional cost to you.

In April, however, the rules are being changed to make it even easier to give and we will put further details in the next newsletter once we have had a chance to understand the changes!

If you want to make a donation in the meantime under the existing Deed of Covenant or Gift Aid rules then please write to us at the address on the back page.

If you have a Charities Aid Foundation Account this can also be used in the same tax efficient way to make donations to the NEO by sending us a CAF cheque.

That we are now a Charity presents a wonderful opportunity to enhance any financial support you wish to give us. So, thank you to ALL our regular supporters, as without you, the NEO would not be able to operate in the way that it does.

With very best wishes,

Catherine Taylor,
Financial Secretary

THE NEO'S MILLENNIUM GETS OFF TO A FLYER!

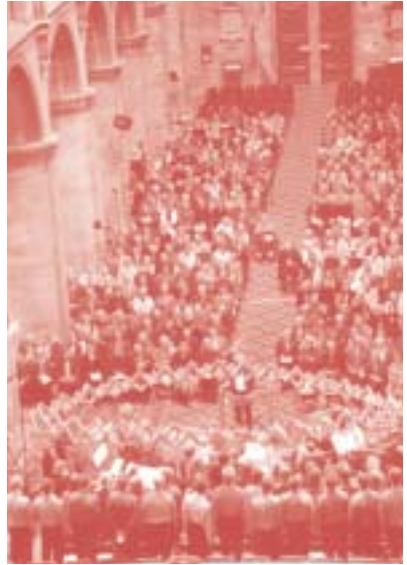
Following a busy autumn we have no fewer than 3 UK Tours planned for 2000 involving 14 concerts together with a tour to Salzburg in the summer. For details of these events see the back page.

A HEREFORD HAT TRICK “a high point of Hereford’s cultural calendar”

Friday December 3rd saw the NEO’s third visit to Hereford Cathedral (the last trip being in December 1996) as we received a very warm welcome for our “Millennium Farewell” Concert. The concert, described by the local paper as “the high point of Hereford’s cultural calendar and not to be missed” was organised by the auctioneers, Russell, Baldwin and Bright. Proceeds from the concert went to St Michael’s Hospice and the Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust.

A packed audience saw another richly varied concert with highlights including, Britten’s *Soirées Musicales*, Delibes – *Sous le Dome Épais* (‘The Flower Duet’ from *Lakmé*), Pachelbel – *Canon*, Verdi – ‘*Va Pensiero*’ (Chorus of the *Hebrew Slaves*), Haydn – *Finale, ‘Allegro’* from *Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra in E flat major* and Stainer – *God So loved the World*.

It was a great evening and there will be many a glad member of the NEO if we were to return yet again!



A MILLENNIUM JUBILEE TOUR

As this newsletter goes to press we are in the middle of another original NEO Tour which, so far, has been performed in front of packed audiences. It involves a nation-wide tour of 6 cathedrals with performances of a unique musical concept – a Millennium Jubilee.

This Litany of Thanksgiving is a continuous 75 minute rolling programme which starts with the profound and stirring sounds of Gregorian chant, and moves through the Renaissance, Baroque, Gospel, Sankey and modern styles of spiritual music. In all, spanning a thousand years!

The performances include special, highly evocative orchestral pieces, dance and new compositions by Nigel Swinford, the NEO’s Artistic Director and Principal Conductor who says:

“I don’t think you will have witnessed anything quite like this before. The overall effect will be one, I think, of vastness, a mighty paean of praise at the beginning of the new millennium.”

At the end of this great outpouring of music, there is a short break to allow people to disperse if they wish. This has then been followed by another new concept, a micro-service called a ‘Watch.’ At the heart of this liturgy is an act of devotion to Christ, specially designed for modern 21st Century man and women.



A SITE – SPECIFIC DANCE FOR WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

As part of the Millennium Jubilee tour, on Saturday 18 March 2000, Lizzie Swinford and Sarah Christopher from the New English Orchestra are to perform a dance which Lizzie has choreographed especially for Worcester Cathedral.

This unique site – specific dance takes its inspiration from the architectural features and art in the Cathedral and is like a temporary moving sculpture. It draws on features as diverse as the quire's whimsical oak carvings and Glynn Williams' wonderful Pieta in the crypt to create a piece that celebrates the beautiful vitality of Worcester Cathedral.

The dance is set to solo cello suites by J.S.Bach and Benjamin Britten which will be performed by Christopher Poffley.

Following the Cathedral prayers at 11am, 1pm and 3pm, Lizzie Swinford and Sarah Christopher will perform the dance in the Quire area in front of King John's tomb.

Entry is free and the performances will each last for some 15 minutes.



DID YOU COME TO (POSSIBLY!) OUR LAST VIGIL TOUR?

Never say never, but as far as we know last autumn saw our fifth and final series of Vigils come to an end.

Once again we saw large audiences flocking to these hugely popular evenings of music, prayer and silence for the nation.

Venues included Bradford, Bristol and Manchester Cathedrals as well as Linton Parish Church, nr. Grassington, Yorkshire and Hull Methodist Central Hall

The New English Orchestra first began its series of Vigils in the historic St Peter's Church in Salzburg in August 1993. Since then there have been Vigil tours of English Cathedrals in 1994, 1995, 1997 and 1998.



FASCINATING RHYTHM

Whatever you do don't miss these events in the Autumn. Billed as a unique evening of music, comedy and conversation these Cabaret style hotel events, where the audience of up to 700 will sit around tables with a glass of wine and light refreshments, will be entertained by music to fascinate as well as some well known pieces including:

Gershwin selection

Saint-Saëns – The Swan

Jeffes – Penguin Café music

Handel – Let the Bright Seraphim

Spirituals

Dance

and featuring an NEO Disputation!

The Disputation is a form of often hilarious argument which will intersperse the music and is based on a concept originally practised by Dominican monks. The tradition goes back to St Thomas Aquinas but these Disputations will be conducted by our own resident academics from the Singers and elsewhere. It promises to be a wonderfully enjoyable evening. See back page for details.