

Inspiring symphony never fails to please

Neil Crutchley
Classical

The magnificent closing bars of Saint-Saens' third symphony never fail to 'bring the house down', and the combination of organ and orchestra used so skilfully in this work invariably delights the ear, so making it one of the most popular of all French symphonies.

Rather surprisingly it was London's Royal Philharmonic Society that commissioned the work from Saint-Saens, whose music was very popular in England at that time (1886) and the composer gave the first performance in St. James Hall on May 19 that year.

Not only did Saint-Saens conduct his new symphony, he was also the soloist in his fourth piano concerto.

The symphony was given a rapturous reception, and has remained in the repertoire ever since.

As well as having an important part for organ the work also includes a four-hand piano part.

It is conceived on the grandest scale, and befits a work dedicated to Liszt.

Tremendous impact

Because of the forces required, the symphony is not performed live as often as its popularity on record would suggest, but it certainly makes a tremendous impact in the concert hall, and this season Leicester audiences have the opportunity to hear two performances.

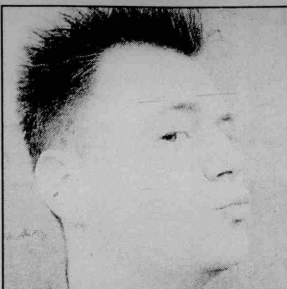
Tomorrow at St. James the Greater Church, London Road at 7.30pm, The Rutland Sinfonia conducted by Barry Collett will perform the symphony, along with the same composer's second Piano Concerto and Elgar's Cockaigne Overture with Margaret Fingerhut as the soloist.

Later this season on May 6, as part of the 70th year celebrations, the Leicester Symphony Orchestra will perform the symphony with Stephen Baden Fuller at the De Montfort Hall, presumably on the newly-restored organ.

Friday Live

THE SKA BOYS ARE BACK AT A FAVOURITE HAUNT

To Boom it concerns



NICK MURPHY: Happy with the way the album has turned out

SKANKIN' Ska-boom return to the country today in time for a showcase gig at one of their favourite venues.

Those Leicester ska boys will be giving it a bit of the old, and plenty of the new at the Charlotte to promote their new album.

The imaginatively named Traffic Warden hits the shops on Monday, and serves up a tasty dose of fun and good music as well.

A slight shadow has been cast over the release of Traffic Warden, which we won't go into for legal reasons, but suffice it to say the band is taking it all in its ample stride — and insists the show and launch will go ahead as planned.

Frontman Nick Murphy said: "We're really happy with the way the album turned out. It's only on cassette at the

Jennifer Trueland **MUSIC**

moment to keep costs down, but we'll be sorting out other formats soon."

Problems aside, plenty is happening for the Leicester band, which reformed earlier this year.

"It's a bit different because we're sometimes an 11-piece now, up from a nine-piece. It's getting out of hand," said Nick.

"But we're getting on really well, having some laughs and doing some gigs."

Leicester fans should queue early to see Ska-boom tonight at the Charlotte — a gig almost guaranteed to sell out.

And rumour has it that Nick (believed to have been out of the country this week) might be popping up to do his bit for Bosnia tomorrow night.

U2 CAN JOIN THE OLDIES!

A FLURRY of copyists is set to descend on Leicester — two next week alone.

The Charlotte sees U2 wannabees The Joshua Trio, who actually enjoy a fair bit of credibility, on Tuesday.

And a tribute to that most groovy of twosomes, The Carpenters, will have them swaying in the aisles at the De Montfort Hall on Wednesday.

Brace yourselves for this as well — Bjorn Again will be doing their Abba-ish stuff at De Montfort Uni on October 15. Look out your Bjorn and Benny Wigs 'n' flares!

We've six copies of The Joshua Trio's latest three-track EP to give away, featuring The Fly, Where the Streets Have No Name and Bad.

Simply name two members of U2. Answers to Jennifer Trueland, Friday Live (U2), Leicester Mercury, St George Street, Leicester, LE1 9FQ.

A Reilly splendid line-up

THE final (we hope!) line-up for Leicester bands' benefit for the former Yugoslavia can now be revealed.

Wacky mob The Life of Reilly, who spawned the idea will be helped by The Freeloaders, Spencer's Party and Redman, who stepped in to replace Yellowbelly. A full folk section for the afternoon involving Jez Lutton has also been sorted out — as well as exhibitions and all the usual stuff.

It's at The Mag tomorrow night — and most of the day too.



REDMAN: They stepped in to replace Yellowbelly for the benefit at The Mag tomorrow night

A band that really Works well!



ALTOGETHER, SMILE! Yes it's the cheesy grins of those merry folk band The Barely Works. Catch their unique sounds at Phoenix Arts

THE brightest hope in roots music at the moment is the organised chaos of The Barely Works (Phoenix Arts, on Sunday), the only band who can put blue-grass, jazz, East European gypsy music and trad folk together in just one item.

Captured on BBC2's Shetland Sessions last week, the innovation of the band shone out, as it has ever since their celebrated re-working of the trad song Byker Hill.

One album later, and despite the departure of leader and dulcimer player Matt Fox, the unconventionality of their arrangements, and the anarchy of Chris Thompson's songs startle reviewers:

"Brass meets violin in a gloriously disfigured caricature of swing. Then it's suddenly into a manic ska beat topped off with a bewilderingly trite vocal and a song that could have been written by Noel Coward."

Sally Barker's Poozies aired a song and a tune on the same BBC TV show, and the altered line-up of her band, The Rhythm, turn up at The Royal

Steve Hampshire **FOLK**

Mail (Wednesday) this week.

Martin Ansell, no stranger to Leicester as a singer/songwriter, replaces Keith Richard-Buck on lead acoustic guitar.

Drummer Lee Sampson was discovered by Noel Redding (he of Hendrix fame) and has worked with Peter Gabriel and John Lennon, and even got signed to Motown!

Sally Barker's last album got a four-star review in Q Magazine, which touted her as a more likely heir to Joni Mitchell than Tanita Tikaram or Suzanne Vega.

Despite dream press like that the Lutterworth singer still sells truckloads of albums on the continent rather than over here.

■ A lot of goodies are tucked in the gig guide this week: melodeon king Tony Hall (Hinckley) and Bernard Wrigley (Rothley) both tomorrow; living traditional legend Fred Jordan (Sunday) and Rory McLeod (Monday) both at The Spread Eagle.

GIG GUIDE

Tonight: Apex Traditional Jazz Band — Town Arms; Ska-boom Charlotte; Rough Diamond — Royal Mail; The Nancy Reverber Magazine; Redman — Imperial; Paula Swan — Durham Ox; Dysart Way; Big Bang — Glen Parva Manor; Cliff Richard — NEC; Acrypha George's.

Saturday: Bill Bailey Mountsorrel King William IV; The Herbs — Royal Mail; Faithhealers plus Perspex White Out plus Propalase — Charlotte; Yugoslavian Benefit with Life of Reilly, Freeloaders, Redman and Spencer's Party — Magazine; EMF — Leicester Uni; Point Blank Leicester United Football Club; The Cynth Asylum The Cedars; Evington; Neil Sinclair — Durham Ox; Dysart Way; Bill Martin — Old Crown; Rothley; Cliff Richard — NEC; Die Schukle — Meisterband Oompah Band; Croft Cleavers; Tony Page — Shades, Croft.

Sunday: Colin Jackson — Skraggs (lunch); Jez Lutton (lunch) — Magazine; Cranberries plus Crossland Sound — Charlotte; Marvel Mareau Sound — Royal Mail; The Olliebrook Jazz Band — Tubes; Melton Mowbray; No Right Turn — Fountain; Sileby; Bunney Graham Duo — Durham Ox; Dysart Way; Jim Palmer plus Cheap Thrills — Prince's Feathers, Hinckley.

Monday: Acoustic Night — Royal Mail; Colin Jackson — Skraggs; Afghan Whigs plus Boyfriend — Charlotte; Cliff Richard — NEC.

Tuesday: Park Lane Jazz Men — Coach and Horses; Joshua Trio plus Relevant Elephant — Charlotte; Pip Beesley — Magazine; Bruce Bateson — Scrapoff White House; Thrust Brothers — Royal Mail; Pete Harris Dixielanders — Hunting Lodge; Barrow on Soar; Cliff Richard — NEC; Chris Conway and Andy Nicholls — Sweet World Cafe, Loughborough.

Wednesday: Sally Barker & The Rhythm — Royal Mail; Les Freres Dangereuse — Magazine; Stereo Lab — Charlotte; Blues n' Rambin — Pump & Tap; Colin Jackson — Skraggs; Jay for Jazz — Foxton Black Horse; Tribute to the Carpenters — De Mont.

Thursday: A House and National Pop Week — Charlotte; Calico — Royal Mail; Christians — De Montfort Uni (and signing at Ainley's); ELO Mark II — NEC; Behind the Bikesheds — Barrel House, Oadby.

DIARY DATES

Tonight: Spread Eagle — Tom Pacheco (USA); Old Packhorse, Loughborough — Demopse's Lot.
Saturday: New Plough, Hinckley — Tony Hall; Phoenix Arts Forer (lunchtime) — Bob Evans & Neil Mercer; Royal Oak, Rothley — Bernard Wrigley.

Sunday: Phoenix Arts — Barely Works; Magazine (lunchtime) — Lutton; Pump & Tap — Ken Wilson (lunchtime); Toffee & The Primal Soup Orch; William IV, Thurcaston — Roots Singers; Spread Eagle — Fred Jordan.

Monday: Spread Eagle — Rory McLeod; Shoulder of Mutton, Chapel St, Oakthorpe (NEW VENUE) — Phil Lunn & Singers; Royal Mail — Singers; White Hart, Lyddington — Singers.

Tuesday: Magazine — Pip Beesley; Jolly Miller — Irish Session; Royal Mail — Thrust Brothers; Forest Rock, Woodhouse Eaves — Singers; **Wednesday:** Royal Mail — Sally Barker & The Rhythm; Queens Head, Barwell — Mick Bisiker.

Thursday: Crown & Thistle, Dunton Bassett — Singers; Francis Arms, Stoney Stanton — Rentacrowd; Bulls Head, Loughborough Rd — Singers.

Friday Week: NEW CLUB at The Venture Theatre, North St, Ashby with Larkspur.

City Singles

- 1 **Sentinel** — Mike Oldfield (-)
- 2 **Sleeping Satellite** — Tasmia Archer (2)
- 3 **Connected** — Stereo MC's (-)
- 4 **Goodbye** — Sundays (-)
- 5 **36D** — Beautiful South (-)
- 6 **Theme from MASH** — Manic Street Preachers (1)
- 7 **It's My Life** — Dr Alban (3)
- 8 **Money Love** — Neneh Cherry (-)
- 9 **Ebenezer Goode** — Shamen (4)
- 10 **One Love In My Lifetime** — Innocence (-)

Dance Singles

- 1 **It's My Life** — Dr Alban (2)
- 2 **Money Love** — Neneh Cherry (-)
- 3 **Ebenezer Goods** — Shamen
- 4 **Gypsy Woman/Peace** — Crystal Waters (-)
- 5 **Banana Song** — G.S.P. (-)
- 6 **Start Me Up** — Salt 'N' Pepa (-)
- 7 **Baker Street** — Undercover (4)
- 8 **Keep It Comin'** — C + C Music Factory (-)
- 9 **I'm On My Way** — Betty Boo (-)
- 10 **I'm Gonna Get You** — Bizarre Inc (-)

Dance Albums

- 1 **Boss Drum** — Shamen (1)
- 2 **Abbaesque** (Remixes) — Erasure (-)
- 3 **Heavy Rhyme Experience** — Brand New Heavies (10)
- 4 **Dangerous** — Michael Jackson (4)
- 5 **Madman's Return** — Snap (-)
- 6 **Rave Generator II** — Vanox (9)
- 7 **Chorus** — Erasure (2)
- 8 **Tighten Up Volume 1** — Loose Ends (3)
- 9 **Bobby** — Bobby Brown (8)
- 10 **Full Mask On Hysteria** — Altern 8 (7)

CDs

- 1 **Tubular Bells II** — Mike Oldfield (7)
- 2 **Gold** — Abba (-)
- 3 **Best Of Volume 1** — Belinda Carlisle (2)
- 4 **Unplugged** — Eric Clapton (1)
- 5 **III Sides To Every Story** — Extreme (4)
- 6 **Songs Of Freedom** — Bob Marley (-)
- 7 **99.9 Degrees F** — Suzanne Vega (3)
- 8 **Am I Not Your Girl?** — Sinead O'Connor (3)
- 9 **Divas** — Annie Lennox (6)
- 10 **Back To Front** — Lionel Richie (-)

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TV Top 10

- 1 **Coronation Street** (Fri/Sun) — 17.61
- 2 **Coronation Street** (Mon) — 17.48
- 3 **EastEnders** (Thu/Sun) — BBC1 — 17.27
- 4 **EastEnders** (Tue/Sun) — BBC1 — 16.74
- 5 **Neighbours** (Mon) BBC1 — 15.70
- 6 **Neighbours** (Thu) BBC1 — 15.70
- 7 **Neighbours** (Tue) BBC1 — 15.66
- 8 **Coronation Street** (Wed/Sun) ITV — 15.50
- 9 **Neighbours** (Fri) BBC1 — 15.07
- 10 **Neighbours** (Wed) — BARB chart. Figures in millions

Pop Videos

- 1 **JFK** (1) Cert 15
 - 2 **Father of the Bride** (1) Cert PG
 - 3 **The Prince of Tides** (-) Cert 15
 - 4 **Deceived** (2) Cert 15
 - 5 **Freejack** (3) Cert 15
 - 6 **Point Break** (7) Cert 18
 - 7 **My Girl** (5) Cert PG
 - 8 **Delirious** (4) Cert PG
 - 9 **Heard My Song** (8) Cert 15
 - 10 **Under Suspicion** (R) Cert 18
- Figures supplied by Picture Video Groby, Leicester, show the top renting videos in the city