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Next issue Fri 30th March
Deadline 10am, Thur 29th March

FRIDAY 23RD - THURSDAY 29TH MARCH 2001

COMING

THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY FORUM: The lexicon of Irish English from a modern perspective. Speaker: Raymond Hickey, University of Essen. Monday 26 March, 5pm at Rewley House, Wellington Square.

THE LIBRA PROJECT - Confidential support group for alcohol and drug users on Monday evenings in Central Oxford. Tel: 01865-723500

TOM POSTER, (BBC Young Pianist of the Year). Beethoven, 'Moonlight' Sonata, Chopin, 2 Nocturnes Op.27 also Ravel & Liszt. Wednesday 4th April, 8pm. £8/£5 on door or Rewley House or 01865-270360/280367

FROM WINTER- INTO SPRING
A concert to celebrate the arrival of Spring
OXFORD PRO MUSICA SINGERS
THE HILDEGARD CHOIR
(semi-finalists, BBC TV Choir of the Year 2000)
THE OXFORD BRASS QUINTET
Conducted by Lucy Haigh and Michael Smedley

Music by Hildegard of Bingen, Palestrina, Weelkes, Malcolm Pearce, Stephen McNeil and motets for multiple choirs and brass by Gabrieli.

University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, High St, Oxford
Saturday March 31st, 8pm. Tickets 798600 or on door.

Oxford Bach Choir with
Orchester Göttinger Musikfreunde
BRAHMS - GERMAN REQUIEM
Conducted by Christian Hamann
Tuesday 3 April at 7.30pm,
Sheldonian Theatre
Tickets: £5-£15.
Playhouse Box Office (798600)

Oxford Coffee?
Holywell Music Room
Sunday 25th March
11.15 am

EROICA STRING QUARTET
Peter Hanson, Lucy Howard (violin)
Guatav Clarkson (viola); David Watkins (cello)
MENDELSSOHN STRING QUARTETS:
OP. 44 NO. 3 IN E FLAT
OP. 80 IN F MINOR
Tickets on the door or from Playhouse Box Office 798600

TO LET

Paid entries head the column, and appear in larger type. Free entries appear space permitting.

CENTRAL NORTH OXFORD. Delightful flat-share, suit visiting researcher. £75 per week. 07719 952755

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SINGLE ROOM, EAST central: foreignstudent / professional. £50pw plus bills. 01865-396055 / oxacc@hotmail.com

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SUPERB ROOMS in well-maintained houses in central Oxford available from 15th March 2001 for short lets. Rents from £290 all inclusive pcm. Telephone 01865-201132 for more details.

JAMES STREET, LARGE room, close to city centre, C.H. parking, garden, Non-smoking Professional. Available 1st April £285. 0411849348

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

ITALIAN STUDENT 28 n/s seeks single room dario####@hotmail.com

PROFESSIONALS SEEK 2-bed flat Cowley Road area. June-September. amcc80@hotmail.com

CINEMA

Until Thursday 29th March

The Phoenix, Walton Street 512526

CHOCOLAT (12) Daily except Sun 1.30, 6.30; Sun 1.45, 6.15

Juliette Binoche defeats the church with chocolate. See review on www.dailyinfo.co.uk

TRAFFIC (18)

Daily 3.45 (not Sun), 8.50 (not Thur)

The trials of drug law enforcement.

BILLY ELLIOT (15) Fri 6.45; Sun 2.00; Mon 1.15; Wed 9.00

Ballet secret of a miner's son.

CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (12) Fri 2.00, 4.15, 9.10; Sat 4.15, 9.10; Sun 4.15, 6.30; Mon-Wed 6.15; Thur 1.15, 6.35

Romantic crowd-pleasing swashbuckler.

GLADIATOR (15) Sun 9.00; Mon 3.40

Ridley Scott's classical epic.

CAST AWAY (12) Mon 9.00; Tue 3.40; Wed 1.15

Tom Hanks plays Robinson Crusoe.

ERIN BROCKOVICH (15) Tue 9.00; Wed 4.00

Julia Roberts stars in a true story.

O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU? (12) Tue 1.15; Thur 3.40, 9.10

Coen Brothers' musical comedy.

SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE (15) Sat 6.45; Sun 12 noon, 4.30

Unusual film-within-a-film horror comedy.

LARKS ON A STRING (15) Sun 12 noon

Classic Czech satire of Stalinist repression.

KIDS CLUB: THE BRAVE LITTLE TOASTER (U) No unaccompanied adults! Sat 2.00

LATE SHOWS:

MCCABE AND MRS MILLER (15) Fri/Sat 11.30pm

Classic ill-fated gambler and whore tale.

REQUIEM FOR A DREAM (18) Fri/Sat 11.30pm

Powerful view of human decline.

ABC Magdalen Street 251998

Bookings 0870 3339063 / Enquiries 725305

MISS CONGENIALITY (12) Daily 6.10, 8.35

Sandra Bullock gets a makeover.

ABC George Street 251998

Bookings 0870 3339064 / Enquiries 723911

ENEMY AT THE GATES (15) Daily 6.10, 8.45

A tale of two snipers.

LIMITED HOURS DUE TO EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT PROGRAM

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288

Jeune St

MEMENTO (15) Fri-Mon 6.00

An amnesiac hunts for his wife's killer.

THE GIFT (15) Daily 8.30

ESP is a mixed blessing.

O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU? (12) Tue-Thur 6.15

Coen Brothers' musical Odyssey.

MARCH 21ST-25TH
OXFORD STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

A full weekend of storytelling shows, workshops and events for people of all ages based at the Old Fire Station. With Sally Pomme Clayton (The Company of Storytellers) and Scottish vocalist Janet Russell, plus a host of local talent and a chance to tell stories yourself.

See "meetings" for individual events. Prices from 5p to free. Bookings/details: 794494

FREUD

Fri 23 ZABADO LATIN JAZZ
Sat 24 JUMSTART DANCE/JAZZ
Sun 25 SKELETON CREW (EARLY/FOLK) 2-4 then VIVA SALSA from 6.30
Mon 26 DOROTHY SHAW PIANO
Thu 29 LOS HOMBRES LATIN GUITARS

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BRAHMS: A GERMAN REQUIEM STRAUSS: FOUR LAST SONGS

Oxford Harmonic Society with the Orchestra of Stowe Opera, conducted by Richard Secret

Saturday 24th March, 8pm, Sheldonian Theatre. Tel: 01865 798600, tickets £12 and £10

Waterfield's

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FOOD AND DRINK

FREE glass of house wine with special sausage and mash lunch.

Not purchased after 2pm

News Cafe, 4 Ship Street, Oxford. Tel: 242317

THEATRE

Apollo 0870 606 3500

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA (see review):

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Mozart) Fri 23rd, 7.15

LA TRAVIATA (Verdi) Sat 24th, 7.15

HAPPY BIRTHDAY POSTMAN PAT Fun for 2-7 yr olds. Sun 25th 1.30, 4.30

MOSCOW CITY BALLET:

CINDERELLA Mon 26th-Thur 29th 7.30

DON QUIXOTE Fri 30th-Sat 31st 7.30

Old Fire Station 794490

OXFORD STORYTELLING FESTIVAL: (see Meetings for details of other events)

BECOMING VIRGIN Fri 23rd 7.30

Stories and personal anecdotes.

A WOMAN'S VOICE Sat 24th 7.30

Songs, tunes and stories.

A SILVER THREAD Sun 25th 7.30

Stories and songs about old women.

WUTHERING HEIGHTS Tue 27th 7.30

New adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic.

Playhouse 798600

THE CANTERBURY TALES Fri 23rd 8pm; Sat 24th 2.30, 7.30

Modern, musical, classical.

See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk

FEELGOOD Tue 27th-Wed 28th 7.30; Thur 29th & Sat 31st 2.30, 7.30; Fri 30th 8pm

Daring political satire on its way to the West End

Burton Taylor Theatre 798600

OXFORD STORYTELLING FESTIVAL:

MALESTROM Thur 22nd 7.30

Stories, poetry & music exploring masculinity

Pegasus Theatre 722851

THE TEMPEST Tue 27th-Sat 31st 7.30

A youthful musical version of Shakespeare.

Tom Poster

(BBC Young Pianist of the Year)

Beethoven, 'Moonlight' Sonata, Chopin, 2 Nocturnes Op.27 Ravel, 'GABRIELLE LA NUIT' - Liszt, 'RIGOLETTO' - PARRAVARRE

Wednesday 4th April 8pm
Holywell Music Room

Tickets £8 (5 concessions) on the door or in advance from Rewley House. 01865-270360 or 280367.

CONCERTS

Friday 23rd March

CHOIR OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE / Stephen Cleobury, Allegri, Scarlatti, Poulenc, Vaughan Williams. £10-£35. / 8pm / Sheldonian Theatre, 798600.

CITY OF OXFORD CHOIR - 'MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK' / Dvorak/Bruckner, Bryan Kelly, Jonathan Pitkin and Richard Panckhurst. Conducted by Peter Leech. / 7.30pm / Keble College / 272727

Saturday 24th March

NICHOLAS HODGES, PIANO RECITAL / Schuman and Finnis / Holywell Music Room, 7.30pm

SHAMROCK BAROQUE / Roland Roberts violin, Lucy Wakeford harp. £8-£17. 744457 / 8.00pm / Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street; Tel: 798600.

Sunday 25th March

VANESSA REDGRAVE, KATHARINA WOLPE / Silk Hall Celebrity Recital. £22.50 includes light supper & wine. All profits to charity / 7.30pm / Radley College, /798600(playhouse)

Monday 26th March

THE LIBRA PROJECT / Confidential support group for alcohol and drug users on Monday evenings in Central Oxford. Tel: 01865-723500 / tba

Tuesday 27th March

ORGAN RECITAL / James Parsons. Admission free. / 1pm / Oxford Town Hall, 109-113 St Aldate's; Tel: 252212

Wednesday 28th March

'MUSIC FOR PHILIP II: WORKS BY JOSEPH, CABEZON AND TALLIS' / A Capella Portuguese, director Owen Rees. £10/£8concs/£6students. 798600 / 8.15pm / The Queen's College, High St, OX1 4AW; Tel: 279194, Fax: 790819

Thursday 29th March

KATHRYN STOTT & FEDERICO MONDELICI / Piano & saxophone, including a premiere by Francis Pott. £10/£8concs/798600 / 8.00pm / Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St. Hilda's College,

BANDS, DISCOS, LIGHTS

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DISCOS, KARAOKES AND EQUIPMENT HIRE - Dave Seaman Entertainments, (01865) 240054.

REVIEW: OPERA

Welsh National Opera - Apollo theatre until Saturday 24th

La Traviata - Verdi

Wed 21st and Sat 24th

In today's moral climate, the story of a courtesan compelled by society to leave the man she loves before dying of consumption may not invoke the deep resonances which would have been felt by the audiences of Verdi's time. But set to this composer's soaringly melodic, achingly passionate music, it cannot fail deeply to affect any audience of any age.

When performed by top-quality singers, as it is in this touring production from Welsh National Opera, the effect is captivating and deeply compelling.

More than any of Verdi's other works, *La Traviata* is a showcase for the three main soloists. Cara O'Sullivan, as the tragic heroine Violetta, made absolutely the most of the opportunity this presents, characterising her role with real feeling while showing off her formidably virtuosic singing.

Ms O'Sullivan's singing, indeed, is worth the ticket price alone: with a voice which manages to combine a deliciously sweet, consistent tone with impressive power, she was as dazzlingly agile in Violetta's defiant Act I cadenzas as she was movingly delicate on her Act III deathbed.

Another excellent performance is given by Jonathan Summers as the father of Violetta's lover. While filling the stage with his grave presence and rich baritone voice, he, too, gave great emotional depth to his role with some beautifully light, sensitive singing. Only Jorge Elias, as his son Alfredo, fails quite to do justice to his part. Though in possession of a pleasant enough voice, he never seemed quite at ease at the upper end of it, and his tuning could have been truer in places. Nor did he seem comfortable on the stage, tending rather to hang his head and clutch at paving chairs for support. Still, when required, he managed to attack *Traviata*'s famous tenor moments with satisfying gusto.

This is a seriously stylish production. Carl Friedrich Oberler's set is remarkable in the way it maximises visual impact using a bare minimum of equipment; giant shining black doors surround the stage, evoking equally well the claustrophobic hedonism of a Parisian party and the hushed expectancy of the sick room. There is nothing to indicate changes in location other than the alternating colours of the modern high-backed chairs and the shifting patterns of petals on the floor. And yet, a combination of ingenious lighting and the dark reflectiveness of the set ensures that the eye is constantly interested, despite some reasonably static staging.

Intelligently elegant design, and some truly outstanding individual performances, make this a wonderful opportunity to see one of the most tuneful and dramatic of all operas.

M J Rogers

TUITION WANTED

GRADUATE TUTORS REQUIRED for a level Easter revision course in Economics and Computer Studies urgently needed. Oxford Academy, 01865 311503 or email oec@dailyinfo.com

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