

PICK OF THE PROMS

GREETINGS PROM PICKERS!

The BBC Proms finish on September 14th. Here are some highlights of the final week. A veritable smorgasbord (though of course you can't eat it) of the best Music Old and New.

Monday 9th An Evening of Gilbert and George and Sullivan. "HEREWARD THE WOKE."

A selection of G&S favourites performed without words or music but interpreted in Mime by national treasures Gilbert and George. [The show will be signed for the very bored.]

Hereward is an Oratorio devised and performed by Members of Embers to celebrate the Life of the Mediaeval Fenland Freedom Fighter and their struggle against global Capitalism. In the unbearably moving Finale, Hereward has a vision of 21st Century Britain and slashes down trees intoning: *Here a Boutique Bakery. There a Boutique Fromagery. Here a Nail Bar. Everywhere a Nail Bar, A Vape Shop. A Betting Shop. A Hair shop. Everywhere A Vape Shop. Lord have mercy on our souls...*

Tuesday 10th - "Qu'est que c'est?"

The sudden cancellation by the 200,000-strong Russian "We-Are-Absolutely-Not-An-Army! Choir" means they will be replaced at very short notice by French a capella ensemble A Tout Vitesse.

Luckily we found the Troup later the same day waiting at the Albert Hall bus stop trying to make sense of the TFL app. In return for directions to Hammersmith they agreed to stage their own show for us, performing the complete recorded works of Otis Redding in 4 Minutes 22 seconds. Has to be heard to be believed! Thanks to TFL for stepping in. What promises to be a stunning performance is guaranteed to have the capacity Audience jiving in the aisles and out of the building in a record time also of 4 minutes 22 seconds. [Thus saving the considerable rental and cleaning costs.]

Wednesday 11th. "Now here this..! Last Man Standing!" N-Feebled Live.

A unique performance by **N-Feebled 80 RAP**. (80 not the number of band members, or the year they started, but the minimum age of these legendary multi-racial performers.) Possibly the last chance to see them perform: *"Eternal Truth, Eternal Youth, Eternal Me, Eternal You". "Give me Life, give me Care, Give me Hope... Where's my Chair?" And "I ask, is this all there is to life? And you say, What did you say? I say, Is this it? Do you think that's fair? You say, What you want? A rocking chair? I say, What I want's companionship. You say What You want's a replacement hip..."* And many other hits.

Thursday 12/13th - RASKULTAKA – CONCERTO FOR BLACKBIRD AND BOEING 777. A

stunning debut at the Proms by the Poet of Penge who boasts, "I can play every single instrument in the classical orchestra to the highest possible standard. 'So what?' you say. **And I agree!** My new Mission is to forget all that rubbish and embrace the pure essence of NATURE: Whose mere servant I merely am. NATURE is pure. And NATURE wants you to download Her Truth from my website. [All major credit cards accepted.] Experience... NATURE. Pure Reality. The Nexus of Now... Captured al vivo in the garden of my Penge semi over a full 2 days. YES! Be part of a unique experience with millions of others. Listen carefully and you might even hear the squeaky hinge of my lounge. Be re-born by celestial vibrations and the gentle song of the Blackbird. Go in Peace, Brother. And Sister. And you, Dad. And Mum. Uncle and Auntie. A Don't-Miss production for you."

[STOP PRESS: APOLS: This is now a Can't-Hear piece pending court proceedings. Boeing Corporation claims copyright of the engine noises. Also, the owner of Snapdragon, a Jersey Black Tiger Owl, claims it is really her Owl's voice that is the 'solo instrument' of the Concerto since Snappy ate the Blackbird prior to recording. Pending a resolution of these suits Listeners may wish to recreate the experience in their own garden – If they have one – Without earbuds – If they can afford them – And open their ears – If they are still functioning and - Enjoy the ambience - If they still can. A complete list of future Boeing 777 flyovers by UK postcode is available on the BBC Website so you can enjoy the full experience. But must provide your own Blackbird. Or Owl. We will of course refund ticket holders. But thus far only 3 have been sold.]

Saturday 14th . To Celebrate a City of Music... “How Can We leave You this Way..?”
How can we replace the irreplaceable Raskultaka Concerto? We can't. But we will try with a tribute to one of the Greatest Bands that ever gigged. And the City that breast-fed it...

NASHVILLE had Elvis. **LIVERPOOL** had the Merseybeats. **MANCHESTER** had the Hollies. **SAN FRANCISCO** had the Grateful Dead. **DETROIT** had Tamla Motown. **NEWCASTLE** had the Animals. **PARIS** had Francoise Hardy. **LONDON** had... Whoever. But who can forget the first time they ever heard the Magisterial chords of “*Yer what?*” by... The Biggest – The Best – The Greatest Band of All!

YES! The NO-ACES from HAZE ON THE CUSP!*

With their patchwork quilt of post-war cultural references, pared to the bone instrumentals, and beyond back to basic lyrics, the No-Aces left their un-indelible mark on the generations that followed. It's hard to believe such a Huge Phenomenon came from such a cruddy little town. Formed in a shed in Haze 1981 by brothers Cain and Abel Ditchling, their star almost immediately took the World by storm with their style of singing without consonants and playing guitar wearing Boxing Gloves. That star may later have wayned but it also whacksed and still shines. Love Them, or Not, you must admit they have created a formidable Body of Work. A glorious mix of Olde Tyme Music Hall, Protest Songs, Love Ballads, Psychedelia, and tributes to their predecessors. A Band for all Ages, not just the Aged.

On this glorious night we will hear all the hits and more, including such gems as:

“Don't Give Me Chips with Everything – She's got me on a diet thing.”

“B. L. A. I. R. – We dig the way he plays guitar!”

“We're Urgent Poppa's Bonaparte Dub Band...”

“Hey Dude!”

“We all live in a World War One Latrine...”

“Don't You Dare Drop That Atom Bomb On Me! Drop it Somewhere Else, Maybe.”

“With me you just can't go wrong... I'll love you till the very End..... Of this song.”

Plus a selection of instrumentals including the classic 'Theme to Get Carthorse', 'Grandad's Army', and Alan Bennett's Yorkshire remake of 'On T' Buses'.

ENJOY!

***Devon**

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