

Brian Lane and Lou Reizner
in association with MAM
present

RICK WAKEMAN:
"Journey To The Centre Of The Earth"



in concert with
The London Symphony Orchestra
and
The English Chamber Choir
conducted by
David Measham
Production narrated by
David Hemmings
at
The Royal Festival Hall
London
Friday, January 18, 1974

Work on the "Journey To The Centre Of The Earth" actually started in November 1971, but was shelved until the completion of "The Six Wives Of Henry the VIII" in October 1972.

The work was written for full symphony orchestra and choir and is in no way intended to be an attempt to fuse group and orchestra. In fact, for no length of time are the two actually playing together; however, I believe very strongly that the correct use of orchestra, choir and group can add phenomenal colour in presenting a work such as this.

The narrations and film clips are simply to make the music as meaningful to the listener as it is to the performers.



David Measham.

David Measham is a classical musician and conductor, who is also involved with the contemporary music scene. In the "Rock music field", he is best known for his involvement with "Tommy". He studied with Norman Del Mar at the Guildhall School of Music in London. He took classes in composition, violin and piano. He also formed his own orchestra, the Camarade, which specialised in contemporary music. After graduating, he joined the BBC Symphony Orchestra as a violin player. He had the distinction of being the youngest player ever to join. In 1967, he was Leonard Bernstein's assistant in preparing performances of Mahler's 7th and 8th Symphonies. In 1972, he conducted the rehearsals for an all-Stravinsky programme when Mr. Bernstein fell ill. Bernstein said of David Measham: "This a real talent. Measham is a facile, forceful and zealous young conductor". Outside of the classical field he conducted and recorded "Skies of America" by Ornette Coleman, and conducted the London Symphony tracks on Neil Young's "Harvest" album.

The London Symphony Orchestra.

The London Symphony is the city's oldest orchestra. It was formed as long ago as 1904, when a group of players broke away from the now defunct Queens Hall Orchestra and decided to form their own orchestra. The LSO gave its first concert on 9th June, 1904 conducted by the renowned German conductor Hans Richter, one-time friend of Wagner. It immediately established a reputation for itself and for Adrian Boult, the veteran British conductor.

In spite of its interesting past, it is probably true to say that the orchestra has attained its zenith over the past few years; its now almost as well known in America and the rest of Europe as in England through the 28 overseas tours it has carried out since 1960, including world tours in 1964 and 1966. Despite gruelling schedules, the high standard of performance has always been maintained.

In fact, the demand for the LSO's services abroad, it's only necessary to mention some of the orchestra's recent tours; Belgium, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Russia, Japan, Korea, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, and the U.S. have all been visited in the past four years.



David Hemmings.



Lou Reizner.



Jules Verne.

Undoubtedly, the uncanny father of science fiction, Jules Verne's second book, "Journey To The Centre Of The Earth", remains a fantasy. He was born in Nantes, France, on February 8, 1828, and died at Amiens on March 24, 1905. He studied law in Paris before writing comedies and librettos for comic operas in conjunction with Michel Carré. His true talent came to light, however, while writing travel stories for magazines, and one such series called "Five Weeks In A Balloon", which appeared in Hetzel's Magazine d'Education, was later issued in book form. His books are amazingly close to the truth in places, and works like "From The Earth To The Moon", and "Around The Moon", fall little short of prophecies. From the information I have managed to gather about him, I have come to the conclusion that he believed in his stories as probabilities.

THE BAND



Barney James.

Barney, the drummer of the outfit, has two major hobbies - one is practising the art of Kung Fu, of which he is a Second Dan (American, Phillipine and European belts); and the other is hustling Rick for cheques. At the tender age of 26*, he has found his way into a group called Warhorse via Legend, Forum, and a couple of years sessioning in the States. He studied under Bob Turner for two years, and is described by his compatriots in Warhorse as an idiot.

(*The band have seen no documents to substantiate his age claim.)



Mike Egan.

Reputedly Scottish, is instantly recognisable as a lunatic with a silly Scotch hat, rolling his rr's. He plays an assortment of guitars, some of them his own. Unlike the Scotch myth, Mike has been known to buy a round of drinks! (May 23, 1965; July 3, 1971; Dec 30, 1973). A self-taught player and reader, he is a heavily-in-demand session player.



Roger Newell.

Aged 26 this year, and recently married, Roger is famed for propping up the bass end of the group. And the bar at the "Valiant Trooper" in Holmer Green, Bucks. His other talents include writing off Vauxhall Victors, and falling through pub windows*. Has improved tremendously at darts since rehearsals started.

(*Further information about this episode upon request to Little Chalfont Police Station.)



Garry Pickford Hopkins.

Known to his friends as Garry — we call him "Gwyneth". A very fine Welsh singer, born in the next village to Ivor Emanuel, which is totally irrelevant, but helps to pad things out a bit. Garry claims that the electricity cuts are disgraceful, as his fellow miners can't see to count their wages. Garry is the lead singer with Wild Turkey, and in case you have any difficulty in distinguishing him from Ashley, the other vocalist, "Gwyneth" is the thin one.



Ashley Holt.

Ashley is without question the fatter of the two vocalists! He is also one of the main reasons for Rick becoming a jibbering heap of clothes soon after they met on the Top Rank circuit, where they served under "Sergeant Ronnie Smith", the bandleader. Soon after Rick went, (following a pay dispute; i.e. difficulty in getting paid), Ashley also left with full Military Honours and most of Top Rank's beer mugs. A highly original and powerful vocalist, he sings in Warhorse.



The Road Managers.

These strange creatures, known to the band as "Road Things," can be seen at frequent intervals wandering on and off stage for no apparent reason. "Road Things" can make or break a concert, depending on how much fuel they have in them. (Brandy and Cokes). Seriously though, the concert could never have taken place without all the work put in by John Cleary, Fred and Toby. Although, the band would like to add that if the concert doesn't happen, it is completely the road crew's fault!

This concert is being recorded and the album:
"Rick Wakeman: Journey To The Centre Of The
Earth" will be released on A&M Records in April
of this year.

