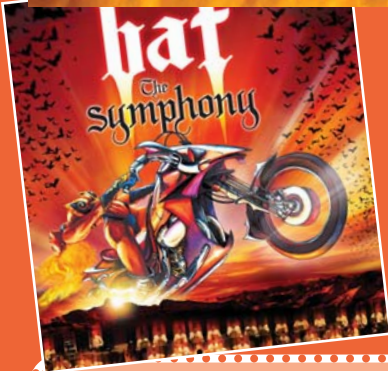


Steve Steinmans Bat the Symphony

Rock and Classical Musicians Collide!!!

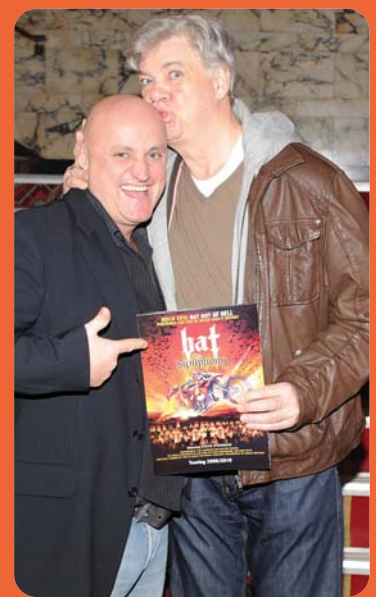


Last October Steve Steinman thrilled an Ipswich audience with his Vampires of Rock Show, now he is poised to return with a new show. On Thursday 30th April Steve brings his 'Bat The Symphony' show to The Ipswich Regent. This is the very first tour of this show and has been a project for some time. Basically it is Steve, his band, his dancers and a 40-piece Orchestra!

Bat The Symphony is the rock epic Bat Out Of Hell performed like you've never

seen it before. Experience the adrenaline driven sound of Steve Steinman and his high-octane rock band, infused with the full power of the classic National Concert Orchestra of Great Britain, conducted by Greg Francis. Steve has spent many years performing as Meat Loaf in successful touring shows The Meat Loaf Story and The Meat Loaf Trilogy.

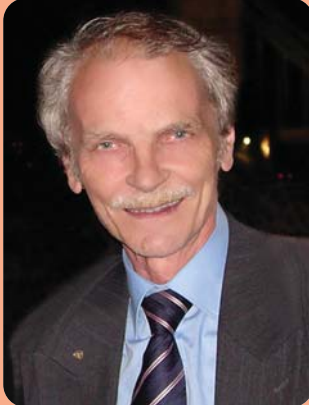
In 2004 Steve produced brand new show Vampires Rock a concert fantasy featuring all of the great rock anthems. The 2007 tour saw Twisted Sister's Eddie Ojeda join Vampires Rock and in 2008 the legendary Toyah Willcox joined in a brand new role created just for her. Toyah has also signed up for the 2009 tour. The biggest project for 2009 sees Steve in the driving seat once again. Bat The Symphony is a dream Steve has had for a long time. Combining a 40 piece Orchestra with Steve's very own rock band to perform all of Meat Loaf's biggest hits, was always going to be major project with a big risk. But sales have surpassed all expectations!



• *Bat The Symphony is at the Ipswich Regent on Thursday 30th April at 7.30pm. To book contact the box office on 01473 433451.*

Greg Francis

Greg was born in Cambridge on 6th January 1947. His father was a professional trumpet player and had played with the rising stars of the Cambridge music scene in the late 1940's Jack Parnell, Tony Osborne, Ken Thorne (film orchestrator and composer Superman etc). Greg was thus brought up on the big bands and orchestras of the day. His 'hero' at the age of 7 or 8 was Frank Chacksfield, and this style of music left a deep impression on his later musical tastes.



Originally, he learned to play trumpet, but this was to be abandoned at the age of 21, and he set out to learn keyboards, with the sole intention of learning orchestration. He was self taught in this art, and says he is happily still learning.

In 1981, he received a commission from the BBC Midland Radio Orchestra to write and conduct 20 arrangements, including 6 vocal arrangements to be sung by popular vocalist of the time, Geoff Taylor. It was at this point that he realised he was in dire need of conducting lessons and so he went off to study under Leonard Davis, conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

By 1986 the BBC were getting rid of their orchestras (29 were to go) and this led to Greg deciding to form his own orchestra and perform a touring tribute to the great orchestras.

In 1989, Greg was approached by (Lord) David Puttnam with regard to supplying an orchestra of young musicians to appear in his new movie 'Memphis Belle'. Greg also directed the orchestra himself on film, and so impressed was David Puttnam with the orchestra, that he asked them to perform at the Royal Premiere in London.

This was to continue until around 1995 when Greg received a commission from Granada TV to do some arranging work for 'Stars in their Eyes'. He went on to accompany 2 of the participants in a touring show, featuring the music of Harry Connick Jr and Billie Holiday.

In 1997, he received an urgent request from Hollywood film composer John Murphy (Lock Stock & 3 barrels, Snatch etc) to orchestrate 4 full orchestra titles for a film recording.

During 2007, Greg decided that he would like to realise a lifetime ambition - to assemble an orchestra specifically to play 'Popular Light Music', particularly the music of his 'all time' favourite composer Leroy Anderson. Thus was formed 'The National Concert Orchestra of Great Britain' which, Greg decided, would be based on a 30 piece line up - but expandable to 45 piece if required. The NCO's inaugural concert was performed in North Wales during December 2007 in a concert entitled 'A Festival for Christmas'. Over two hours of new music arrangements were written by Greg, including of course, Leroy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride' and his well known masterpiece - a 10 minute medley entitled 'A Christmas Festival'.

Since that time, Greg has been busily reducing and re-orchestrating 25 of the most popular Leroy Anderson titles for a series of concerts of Leroy Anderson music - a Centennial Celebration, it being exactly 100 years since the birth of the composer (29th June 1908). As if to emphasise his determination to establish this new orchestra within the realms of light and popular music, Greg has also accepted a tour of over 20 dates for April/May 2009, backing a stage show 'Bat the Symphony' (originally performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra) and his next mission, on completing the Leroy Anderson program of music, is to re-orchestrate the music for this 2009 project.

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