

Neo Camerata – official bio August 2005

Combining the emotion and beauty of classical, the excitement and energy of pop, the awe-inspiring technique of virtuoso musicians, and the riveting original music of one of its members, Neo Camerata has created what critics have called a “genre-busting,” “technically impressive,” “emotionally stirring” and “totally cool and amazing” experience. With a unique multi-cultural mix, Neo Camerata’s “new classical” sound has people buzzing on both the classical and pop sides of the music business. Recently, Tim Smith, classical critic from the Baltimore Sun echoed Sarah Hepola, rock critic from the Dallas Observer by simply stating, “Whatever you call it, it’s good.”

The group plays from memory and uses amplification to create a sound that as one reviewer put it, “makes you swear a dozen people are on stage”. Equally at home in serious concert halls and grungy rock clubs, the growing Neo C audience is as diverse as their varied collaborations. Since their debut in 2004, they have shared the bill with pop artists, rock bands, opera singers, symphony orchestras, and a ballet company. They’ve performed in places as diverse as Washington’s Kennedy Center, New York’s Cutting Room, and the Cannes Film Festival.

The core of the group’s sound is the original music of infectious melodies, driving rhythms, and pop-styled harmonies written by Neo Camerata's violist, Mark Landson. The creative catalyst behind the band, Landson followed parallel paths of classical training and rock band experimentation, at one point leaving the Eastman School of Music to form a rock band with his brother John Landefeld, Neo Camerata's cellist. The brothers did return to the classical fold, and Landson moved to Spain to join a touring string quartet and chamber orchestra. While there, he began combining the varied elements of his background into a brand of classical music with a distinctive pop edge.

Soon after, the brothers reunited in Dallas, Texas, where they met Bulgarian violin virtuoso Vesselin Demirev, who had also played guitar in a professional rock band in Europe. The three friends resolved to create a new kind of band that would break all the rules, and Neo Camerata was born. With the addition of British violinist Jane Hunt, and the highly accredited American pianist Jeanne Schumann, Neo Camerata is prepared to make a splash with its first international release, “Travels”, on the Well-Tempered Productions label in October 2005.

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