

Tim's Divine inspiration...

Former Fylde coast resident and local performer/musician Tim Clarke is working with acclaimed singer/songwriter Neil Hannon of The Divine Comedy on a new pop opera.

Written by German playwright and theatre director Frank Buecheler, and with music by Hannon, the piece, entitled *In May*, has its opening night on two continents.

It premieres at the Nuffield Theatre in Lancaster in May next year and opens at the same time in Sydney, Australia at the King Street Theatre.

Tim, who translated the text from German into both English and French, worked closely with Neil on the interpretation.

"I went over to Dublin a couple of times to work with Neil on refining the text and matching it up to his melodies," said the former Zanti Misfitz member and musical theatre star. "I learnt such a lot from him, he is a real perfectionist."

Written for string quintet, piano and tenor voice, it was recorded at the Konk Studios in North London (owned by Kinks' Ray Davies) at the end of last year. We have been working on it for two or three years now, fitting it around Neil's performing and recording commitments, and it is very satisfying to see our combined efforts coming to fruition," he said.

Alongside the project, Tim is also part of the four-man team behind a new and larger commercial musical theatre piece, which has just received development funding and is scheduled to be staged in the summer of 2014.

"This is a much larger project and it is very exciting to be involved at the very beginning," he said.

Tim has also been busy in the recording studio himself and releases his first solo CD early next year.

"I've written a number of songs over the last two years and have finally got round to recording them with a small group of collaborators," he said. "We are currently rehearsing the material with a view to live performances early in 2013."

More information about the CD or pop chamber opera from Tim at timclarkemusic@hotmail.co.uk

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