A Song for All Seasons
Renaissance at their best

By David B. Kerets

Hoping to recover from the dismal sales of their last album, Novello (it became a cut-out only a few months after its release), the five members of Renaissance have put together their best album since Turn of the Cards.

A Song for All Seasons is a well-considered mix of traditional Renaissance orchestrations and a few above-average pop melodies. The problem with many of the group's albums to date has been the lesser songs thrown in for filler between the major works.

The major cuts on this disc are Day of the Dreamer and the title song, which is the better of the two. A Song for All Seasons has a marvelous theme, any favorite since Mother Russia. Its overall pattern and changes of mood, however, aren't very original. That seems to be a big problem with a lot of the music on this record. I've heard much of it before.

Back Home Once Again, the theme from a British television series, has an interesting twist in the tune of its chorus; other than that, there's nothing special.

Just because there's nothing special doesn't mean listening to the album isn't enjoyable. I can listen to Annie Haslam's "golden voice" any time, and Renaissance has the least oppressive orchestrations of the progressive classical/rock groups flooding the market with fancy chords.

The Role of the Music Critic in Society, Richard Rhyner, music critic for the Globe, Wed., April 12, 5pm in Rm. 14E-304.

Richard North's Exhibition of the sixteenth-century paintings, drawings, and graphics in the Hayden Gallery and Corder Gallery through April 19. Filmed BBC interview at 12:45 and 3pm. Gallery hours: Sun.-Fri., 12-3pm.

The Maze, Fri., April 14, from 9-12am, performances in residence in the Minot Auditorium. Tickets $5.50-$8.50.

The Charge of the Light Brigade, the Midnight movie, Sat., April 15, being a blanket and sit on the floor; 2nd floor of Union Hall; tickets $6.50-$7.50; call 547-5255.

Jill Mansanarak, at Symphony Hall, Tues., April 18, 8pm. Also showing, Bobby Rob's Independence Day, Sat., & Sun., April 15 & 16, 7:30 & 9:30. Carpenter Center for the Arts, Quincy St. off Harvard Yard.

The Hiding Places, co-sponsored by the MIT Seekers, Sat., April 15, Hayden Hall, Boston U. (School of Management); tickets $1 at the door; only N.E. appearance this season.

Unrest: A Collection from the world's finest short films has returned to the Off the Wall Theatre, 861 Main St., Cambridge. Playing Fri. & Sat. at midnight; admission $5.50; call 545-5255.

IN TOWN

Roots of Contemporary Art — Prophets: Post-Ayer, the Nabi, Toulouse-Lautrec, at the Inst. of Contemp. Art, 935 Boylston St., Boston, April 13, 2pm; call 266-3511 admission $1.

Chuck Mangione and His Quartet, with the Children of Sanchez, April 14, 8:30pm at Symphony Hall; tickets $8-

Neal Paul Smokey, former member of Peter, Paul and Mary, at the Berklee Performance Center, Sat., April 15, tickets $5.50-$8.50; call 436-8181.

STANLEY CLARK, with Pat Metheny Group, April 16, 8pm at the Opera House; tickets $6-$8.50.

Tower of Power, with Lenny White, April 21, 8pm at the Opera House; tickets $6-$8.50.

Marshall Tucker Band, April 22, 8pm at the Boston Garden; tickets $6-$8.50.

Robert Palmer, April 23, 7pm at the Opera House; tickets $7.50-$8.50.

Art Garfunkel, at Symphony Hall, Tues., April 25, 8pm; tickets $7.50-$8.50.

IN THEATRE

Anything Goes, presented by the Dunner Drama Society April 14, 15, 21, and 22 at 8:15 & 11:15pm at Dunster House, Harvard; tickets $2; call 498-2205.

Ruddigore, presented by the Harvard Gilbert & Sullivan Players, at the Agassiz Theatre. Radcliffe Yard April 13-29; Thu., Fri., & Sat., 8pm and 9pm; 2:30pm. Tickets at Holyoke Center; call 495-2626.

— Leigh J. Passman