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Dear Neil,

I just wanted to thank you for your invitation to come and review Jason Robert Brown's 'Songs for a new world'. I was very much looking forward to seeing it before the performance and extremely glad I saw it afterwards.

We know the depth of talent that Theatreworkz has but it was pleasing to see you take on this testing show with a cadre of performers who were not afraid to have those obvious talents stretched and tested, sometimes to the limit.

Harmonies, difficult to say the least, abounded throughout and rarely seemed to slip. Voices, as I said, were tested but rarely succumbed to those tests. The band, under the tight direction of Robert Wickes, seemed faultless. My congratulations must go to Robert as well as the rest of his band – Kate Oram (Keyboard), Richard James (Bass) and Mick Kilsby (Drums).

A simple, multi-level set did the trick and provided a good performing platform in this little theatre. The lighting did seem out of line and time periodically and mics were left on too long when performers exited the stage once or twice but I'm glad to say this did not negatively impact the overall feel of the show to any large degree. Indeed at times it added to the humour of it.

There were, as would be expected, some numbers that I preferred to others but it would be churlish of me to make a point of mentioning these as it may appear that I was making comparisons between the four performers. This is not the case as all four were equally as good. Suffice to say the show was a large success all round. I'm sure each performer could look back and see some little room for improvement on a personal level as they all appeared to be setting themselves, and striving for, such high standards. However, they each put their own professional stamp on this production. Very well done to all.

Anita Walker, Louise Hough, Steve Hough and Neil Richardson please take a well deserved bow.

Neil, please be so kind as to pass on my gratitude to all those involved in the production and thank them on my behalf for an extremely enjoyable night out.

Kindest regards,

Kevin Sheen – Regional Representative
NODA East Midlands – District 7

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