

STARS WITH MARJORIE ORR

ARIES Mar 21 to Apr 20

Spiritual growth will be more important to you than outer ambition for a few weeks. You could help yourself by planning things through more carefully. One situation will turn out well.

Call my Aries Line ☎ 09065 854852

TAURUS Apr 21 to May 20

If you spread yourself too thinly in the busy weeks ahead, you may appear superficial. You need to acquire depth as well as a breadth of knowledge.

Call my Taurus Line ☎ 09065 854853

GEMINI May 21 to Jun 21

You will fight to defend your rights, but don't be too possessive. Flow with the bounty of the universe and it will flow back in your direction. Don't bite off more than you can chew.

Call my Gemini Line ☎ 09065 854854

CANCER Jun 22 to Jul 23

You are bringing a real ray of sunshine into rooms when you sweep in. Your physical constitution should feel stronger than usual. There may be good opportunities around.

Call my Cancer Line ☎ 09065 854855

LEO Jul 24 to Aug 23

You need to plan for what is about to come nearer your birthday. Just have patience and what you want will all come right very soon.

Call my Leo Line ☎ 09065 854856

VIRGO Aug 24 to Sep 23

You will be sorting out longer term plans for the next 12 months, so bounce your ideas around. If things

From Stones to Brahms

**Cirrus Quartet
Holy Trinity Church
Lyonsdown Road
New Barnet
Tomorrow, 7.30pm**

Alan Danson is no jobbing musician struggling to get work.

If he isn't arranging the songs of Metallica and The Rolling Stones, he is teaching music and theory at Barnet schools. And if he isn't teaching, he is composing music for adverts and films.

He only wishes he sometimes had his own space to be still and creative. Instead he has to come up with arrangements at the drop of a hat.

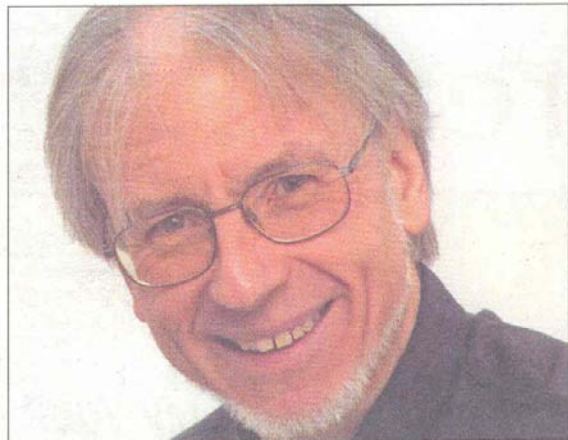
"It's very frenetic," he says. "It's been a tough job juggling everything. But I have to say, I have been very blessed."

He is often given only one or two days to write an arrangement for an advert or, for example, a cat-walk show (he arranged the music for London Fashion Week last year).

"Music is always the last thing," he says. "Producers don't usually sit around for three weeks discussing it. This is the business. This is the way life goes."

Mr Danson, 54, of Boleyn Way, New Barnet, trained at the Royal Academy of Music. It was not until the mid-Seventies that he began to compose and arrange.

"I wanted to learn about composition and arrange-



Versatile: composer Alan Danson writes classical music and arrangements of songs by bands such as The Rolling Stones

ing from the shop floor, by playing in orchestras," he said.

He describes his music as modern but lyrical, saying he is greatly influenced by French composers such as Debussy.

He wrote Trees and Grasses from Dartmoor Dreams for part of a multi-media performance with photographs and poetry.

This is performed by string quartet Cirrus, for this church concert, as well as his arrangements of Rolling Stones songs.

The quartet, joined by horn player John Thurgood, also play Mozart's Horn Quintet,

Kreutz's Horn Quartet and Brahms' String Quartet in A minor.

Clare Thompson, of Finchley, is a violinist with the Philharmonia Orchestra. Colin Callow, of New Barnet, has played the violin for the Royal Philharmonic. David Burrows, artistic director of Cirrus, plays the cello in Phantom of the Opera, and Stephen Shakeshaft has played with the Scottish National Orchestra.

Tickets are £10 (including wine and canapes). Call 020 8216 3786.

What's on

Tomorrow: The Barnet Folk Club meets at artsdepot, Nether Street, North Finchley, at 8.30pm. There are 12 ten-minute spots open to those with an interest in folk music. Admission is free. ☎ 020 8441 3620.

Saturday: The Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Flower Show is at Free Church Hall, Northway, Hampstead Garden Suburb, from 3pm to 5.30pm. Refreshments are available. Admission is £1 to non-members. Members and children go free. ☎ 020 8455 0455.

Sunday: The Barnet Collection exhibits a diverse selection of garden art, ceramics and sculpture in the beautiful Mediterranean NSPCC Open Garden at Pinegrove, Totteridge, from 2pm to 5pm. All work is for sale, as well as plants and teas. Admission is free.

Monday: Jon Allen's Hall of Fame sees singer/songwriter Allen host a night of talent at restaurant Viva Viva, in High Street, Hornsey. The inimitable blues artist and Viva Viva favourite has two support dates for Damien Rice. Music starts at 9pm. Diners get priority seating. Entry is free. Booking is recommended. ☎ 020 8341 0999

Tuesday: comedians Howard Read and Sean Collins perform their Edinburgh preview acts at Downstairs at the King's Head, Crouch End Hill, Crouch End. Admission is £7 (£5 concessions) for both shows. Doors open at 8pm. First show, 8.30pm; second show, 9.45pm.

Wednesday: The Finchley Art Society hosts a demonstration of landscape painting in acrylic by Terry Harrison. Meet at St Mary's Church Hall, Finchley, between 12.30pm and 1.30pm. ☎ 020 8445 2685.

Thursday: Pride in the House is an exhibition of work by lesbian and gay artists in the galleries at Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, Waterlow Park, Highgate, until July 3. Admission is free.