

# Traffic protesters raise their voices



**FINE FETTLER:** the singers practise before their big gig at Vauxhall Cross

Photo: OSMAN DEEN/19539/1/S

FIFTY singers will perform at one of South London's busiest junctions today as part of an artistic stand against traffic.

They will be performing at Vauxhall Cross until 8.30pm, with some of the singers even singing duets across pedestrian crossings.

The voices and traffic noise will be recorded and played back under the title of Vauxhall Pleasure at Tate Britain during Late at Tate later this evening.

The work is a collaboration between artist Anna Best and composer Paul Whitty.

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## By DOMENIC DONATANTONIO

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Anna Best, 39, who lives just yards from Vauxhall Cross, in nearby Harleyford Road, said the performance was a statement against car culture.

She said: "We are doing this to protest against traffic and the lack of thought that seems to go to residential areas in London."

The duo will be leading the singers, with the music timed to the sequence of the traffic lights.

The singers will be performing a re-arrangement

of the songs of Thomas Arne, the 18th-century composer who lived at the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. They will also be handing out information sheets to passing drivers.

Vauxhall Cross stands on the site of the 18th-century Pleasure Gardens, which were renowned as a place of musical entertainment, fountains, fireworks and fun.

Today, the area frequently sees traffic gridlock, as a result of Transport for London building a major transport interchange, set to be completed this autumn.

Free performances of Vauxhall Pleasure are at 7.30pm and 8.30pm at Tate Britain tonight.