

Review

Music

Perfect Persephone

The Mavromoustaki sisters, Victoria and Eleni presented a violin and piano recital at Castelliotisa hall in Nicosia as part of the Cyprus Artists Series run by the Pharos Trust. Although the concert was not full, Garo Keheyan, President of the Trust was happy with the turnout considering the previous night's piano recital was attended by two people!

The well-chosen programme began with Leclair's *Sonata in D Major Op. 9 No. 3*. The French violin virtuoso/composer, who was once described as 'The French Corelli' seems only to be remembered because he was murdered. On October 23, 1764 he was found in his home lying in a pool of blood from three stab wounds. Although the murder remains a mystery, it seems as if his wife was involved. She was reduced to dire financial problems and, on her husband's death, could

auction her husband's belonging and house to raise capital, which she did.

This was a confident reading with carefully chosen tempi, although there were not many dynamic subtleties. The duo soon adjusted to the rather resonant acoustic of Castelliotissa and continued with Beethoven's *Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 7 in C Minor Op. 30*.

The sonata was tastefully nuanced and yet dramatic, with violinist Victoria playing 'into the strings' for a full, rounded sound. Although there were several intonation slips, the depth of feeling and phrasing, together with the rapport between piano and violin, provided an exciting reading.

The second half of the concert, with more virtuoso and brilliantly written works saw Victoria at her best. This part of the concert, played from memory allowed her the freedom to be completely immersed in the music. Chausson's *Poeme Op. 25* was simply exquisite and was played with deep intensity and tonally lush. Her sul G passages were full and round, and the higher passages sparkling and shimmering with no hint of harshness.

She is technically extremely proficient, with her 'Russian style' training shining through, making the flashy pyrotechnics seemingly effortless.

Ravel's *Tzigane* was inspired by gypsy and Hungarian folk tunes and is one of the best-known and most frequently recorded violin show-stoppers. The captivating and difficult violin part with its intricate gypsy rhythms was played with flair, again demonstrating Victoria's virtuoso technique without losing expressivity. She was well supported by Eleni, with the dissonant chords and interesting bass line nicely brought out, giving a moody and passionate reading.

A sparkling performance of high standards with superb technical proficiency, expressive intensity – extraordinary artistry for such young musicians.

Persephone Duo

Eleni and Victoria Mavromoustaki are a dynamic violin and piano duo in concert. December 27. Rialto Theatre, Heroes Square, Limassol. 8.30pm. £6-4. Tel: 77777745

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