

Review

Charming Chamber Music

The second concert of the Sixth Pharos International Chamber Music Festival took place on Thursday night at the Royal Manor House in Kouklia, Paphos to an extremely appreciative audience.

The programme began with Schubert's *String Trio In B Flat Major D471* with violinist Yuri Zhislin, violist Alexander Zemtsov and cellist Alex Chausian.

The work is a diamond of the classical music repertoire and it received the same treatment by these three fine musicians who blended perfectly and gave an exciting rendition of this one movement, unfinished work.

The string trio is an intimate group but the gestures were grand simultaneously retaining classical elegance. The lines were elegant, with great dynamic variety and a generally musically live performance.

The Beethoven *String Trio in G Major No. 1 Op 9* followed with violinist Levon Chilingirian teaming up with Zemtsov and Chausian. This is a technically demanding work but the nuances were all there, with some especially beauti-

ful moments in the slow movement with cellist Alex Chausian, a most gifted player. He has a deep, dark sound which resonated beautifully in the surroundings, as did violist, Yuri Zhislin who is the Principal Viola of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Chilingirian also played with panache and style generating an excitement which was palpable in the venue.

Undoubtedly though, the highlight of the evening was Dvorak's *Piano Quintet In A Major Op 81* written when the composer was at his peak artistically and already internationally recognised as an accomplished composer.

The work is regarded as the epitome of Dvorak's style with a wide range of instrumental colour and full of rhythmic vitality. Pianist Jeremy Menuhin, son of the famous violinist Yehudi Menuhin joined the quartet and from his first notes with Alex Chausian, tension and excitement prevailed.

The ensemble was tight throughout with careful attention to the dotted rhythms, and Levon Chilingirian in constant contact with Menuhin. Chilingirian is a confident, experi-

enced and flamboyant player, completely at ease on the stage with a constant attention to detail.

The viola features extensively in this work and Alexander Zemtsov was marvellous. His sound quality in the first movement on the A string was breathtaking and in the second movement which is a Czech Dumka or elegy, the sonorities in the high positions on the C string were exquisite in their beauty.

He achieved the sadly reflective and at the same time lively and extrovert changes of the music with the interplay between phrasing and vibrato tender, but driven with great energy and momentum.

This was a vibrantly brilliant and energetic performance, which received rapturous applause which the quintet acknowledged by playing another short excerpt leaving the audience satisfied and enthralled with their evening.

For the details on the next concert Tel: 22663-871 or <http://www.thepharostrust.org>

By Saskia Constantinou

CYPRUS MAIL

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