

AILISH TYNAN (SOPRANO) WITH IAIN BURNSIDE (PIANO)
University of Plymouth Sherwell Centre
24/03/07

Voice proves to be a superb instrument

It's always going to be up for discussion whether the voice should really qualify for inclusion as pure chamber music. Irish soprano, Ailish Tynan's recital certainly attracted a number of new faces, whilst some of the regular chamber-music groupies clearly decided not to come.

In the event, Ailish proved an outstanding advocate for the voice, and those who weren't present really missed one of the most personable artists ever to grace the Sherwell stage, and certainly the best vocal performance by far. Ailish might have the stature of a leprechaun, which she so aptly characterised in her final song, but she packs the voice and personality of a true giant!

Ailish has that wonderful ability to absorb a song of any style or genre, whether in the varied Shakespeare settings, the wonderful group of Richard Strauss Lieder, where her performance of Morgen was just breathtaking, or in Herbert Hughes's delightful arrangements of Irish folksongs, which suited her lovely rich brogue to a tee. Facial gestures were important, but it was always there in the voice itself, whether at a grand fortissimo or sublime pianissimo.

Iain Burnside was the ideal partner here, for not only was his piano-playing superb throughout, and his accompaniment sensitive to every nuance, but his erudite and more restrained delivery provided the perfect foil for Ailish's infectious exuberance, which was so absolutely irrepressible.

REVIEW by PHILIP R BUTTALL
