

## REVIEW Philip R Buttall

### ANNIVERSARY COMPOSERS' CONCERT Sherwell United Church

One performance only

LUNCHTIME concerts have been part of the City Museum and Art Gallery's programme for 15 years and, had the refurbishment been finished, this special Anniversary Concert could have celebrated the fact in its rightful home. In the event, Sherwell church provided an equally welcoming venue for an extended programme featuring the music of local composers.

The packed audience was treated to a wide-ranging selection of pieces which certainly reflected the eclectic nature of the concert series itself every year, and the international origins of some of its artists.

Terrence Higgins's *Evocacion* hinted at warmer Mediterranean climes, whilst my own *Matilda Goes Walkabout* reinforced the international connections.

Jazz elements featured in Clive Jenkins's *Suite for Saxophone*,

whereas a delicate romantic nostalgia permeated John Preece's *Valse rhapsodique*.

The programme also acknowledged the high levels of performance witnessed over each season, and here, joining the composer pianists themselves, Jake Loewendahl (violin), Olivia Loewendahl (cello) and Douglas Clarkson (clarinet and saxophone) did a quite superb job in accommodating each composer's musical demands with considerable panache.

It was altogether a fitting tribute to the work of concert organiser, Jeanie Moore, who also got in on the act by singing the *Rat Song*, one of a group of pieces performed and written by Marsha Head, as well as reminding regular concert-goers that the next season will be back on home ground in September.

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