

Music



Eclectica! at Plymouth Museum (review)

24th April 2009

At the end of any concert season, you usually can't wait till the next one.

But after Eclectica! took the final slot in the current International Lunchtime series, there's really little left to look forward to.

For this amalgam of string quartet and jazz guitars was not just magnificent, but as an event of its kind, it's unlikely to be bettered!

Even for those who had heard Eclectica! before, there were still further revelations.

A quartet relies on total empathy between its members. Here, guitarist, Nic Meier didn't merely take over from his predecessor, but has really injected some fresh magic.

Violinist, Lizzie Ball's virtuosity à la Grappelli is undisputed, but now she takes the occasional vocal.

Her sensually persuasive delivery in Joni Mitchell's River, and Jobim's Girl from Ipanema, with an impressive verse in the vernacular, added yet another dimension.

Pete Oxley is the supreme jazz guitarist, but now he increasingly adds composer to his many talents, with his To You providing an especially poignant example of his art.

Cellist, Bernard Gregor-Smith, brought his wealth of experience to the ensemble, and nowhere more apparent than in his quite ravishing tone in Bésame Mucho.

A breathtaking performance of Monti's Czardas provided the ideal conclusion to this all-too-brief recital transcending the traditional boundaries between classical music and jazz, and one that will surely be impossible to forget.

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