

FUJITA PIANO TRIO
Sherwell Centre
02/02/08

Magical sisters play from memory

Plymouth Chamber Music has been bringing most of the top international artists to the city for a long time. Whilst the occasional artist has possibly been the equal of the Fujita Piano Trio in terms of technique alone, there is one thing which simply puts this all-sister ensemble in an unassailable class of its own: the whole programme is played from memory!

It's almost impossible to appreciate what this means in performance. The solo pianist who suffers a memory lapse can usually regroup, and for the concerto soloist, the orchestral players at least have their own parts to follow. But for a trio the potential for disaster is virtually unimaginable.

However, this in itself creates a unique listening experience. There is no barrier which the use of music, with its constantly disruptive page-turning, otherwise imparts, and moreover there is always that necessary sense of risk which ensures that every performance has that special added frisson.

Arisa, Honoka and Megumi are, of course, absolutely superb solo artists in their own right, and psychologists would no doubt be able to account for this uncanny display of sororal memory. But their magnificent performance of this taxing programme of trios by Mendelssohn, Takemitsu, Shostakovich and Schubert, was second to none, and must surely rank as one of the most memorable musical experiences heard in the city for many years to come.

REVIEW by PHILIP R BUTTALL
