

## Music



### London Mozart Players at Dartington Great Hall (review)

*12th April 2010*

What a delightful way to spend an afternoon, in the company of the London Mozart Players in the glorious setting of Dartington's Great Hall, bathed in gorgeous spring sunshine.

Conductor, Hilary Davan Wetton drew an emotionally-charged reading of Haydn's 'Hen' Symphony, which soon settled into a taut performance, where extreme dynamic contrasts were very much the order of the day, and totally idiomatic for this minor-key work from his 'Sturm und Drang' period.

Fiona and John York joined the orchestra for Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, crafting a first-rate ensemble where the two instruments sounded virtually as one, and where the alternative orchestral layout, with second violins on the right, and the two cellos central, greatly enhanced the quasi-stereo effect.

Saint-Saëns's Carnival of the Animals is always good to listen to, but this performance was simply in a class of its own, not just because each movement was preceded by one of Roger McGough's enchanting poems, but because these were so superbly narrated by local poet, Matt Harvey, who would easily have convinced anyone in the packed audience that they were of his own creation, such was his seamless natural delivery.

Of course, the playing was top-class, too, and distinguished by the superlative solo contributions from flautist, Juliette Bausor, Tim Amhurst (double bass), Sebastian Comberti (cello), clarinettist, Angela Malsbury, and YORK 2's worst-scenario scale-playing in 'Pianists'.

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