

MOLTO MUSICA ENSEMBLE WITH MIN-JUNG KYM (PIANO)
University of Plymouth Sherwell Centre
05/04/08

Talented outfit left the best until last

Molto Musica Ensemble is certainly a flexible outfit. On the one hand it performs a wide variety of chamber music, but since its members are drawn from top UK orchestras, the actual personnel can change on the night. This should have little effect, except when the players have to spend most of the day stuck in traffic, and arrive with time only for the briefest run-through!

Hasenöhr's extremely condensed working of Strauss's Till Eulenspiegel is a difficult opener at any time and, whilst clarinettist, Joy Farrall certainly tried to keep things moving along, it was here that the overall ensemble did feel a tad nervy at times.

Mozart's Quintet for Piano and Winds brought some especially fine solo work from oboist, Daniel Bates, and Elspeth Dutch (horn), with pianist, Min-Jung Kym's highly sensitive phrasing and classical poise contributing to the performance's overall success.

But as the final concert of the present series, this should essentially be a party evening and, if the first half wasn't exactly buzzing, Schubert's Trout Quintet more than compensated. This was simply breath-taking with violinist, Daniel Rowland, Amélie Roussel (viola), Thomas Carroll (cello), Dominic Worsley (double bass) and Min-Jung Kym obviously having a real ball. It would be hard to envisage a more authentic performance of a work originally intended for amateurs to play around the piano, but here despatched with supreme professionalism!

REVIEW by PHILIP R BUTTALL
