

Music



Ten Tors Orchestra / Exploring Handel in Plymouth (review)

29th September 2008

Conductor, Simon Ible, *pictured left*, has a real knack for inventive programming, and for bringing fresh musical talent to the area.

Ten Tors Orchestra's Exploring Handel successfully combined familiar, and less well-known repertoire, as well as providing an ideal opportunity for oboist, Andrew Knights, to relinquish his orchestral role, and give a fine performance of the Oboe Concerto No 3, where his rich tone and subtle phrasing in the slower sections combined with precise articulation and neat finger-work in the faster passages.

But the real jewel in the crown was young soprano, Ruby Hughes, *pictured right*, whose agile and well-pointed voice was the ideal vehicle for the many coloratura passages, while possessing the necessary tone and sufficient weight for moments where dramatic expression was required.

Arias for voice with oboe obbligato proved especially effective, with both singer and player creating an excellent ensemble through shared dynamics and well-considered breathing.

The small chamber orchestra was on particularly good form, distinguished by some first-rate playing from leader, Malcolm Latchem, Brenda Willoughby (violin), and the quite outstanding contribution from continuo cellist, Vicky Evans.

The evening in fact marked the opening of the new season of Peninsula Arts concerts and events, and this most enjoyable recital was not only a credit to the Ten Tors Orchestra, but to the University of Plymouth, which continues to support and promote it in the city and beyond.

PHILIP R BUTTALL

