

Music



Ten Tors Orchestra with Evelina Puzaitė in Plymouth (review)

16th February 2009

You can always rely on conductor, Simon Ible, and the Ten Tors Orchestra to come up with a varied and attractive programme for any occasion.

Furthermore, it was especially fitting that the star of the show at this very well-supported Valentine's Day concert at Plymouth's Guildhall should be the young Lithuanian pianist, Evelina Puzaitė.

Evelina gave an absolutely superb performance of Schumann's Piano Concerto, where her poetic and sensitive playing was perfectly complemented by more than sufficient power especially in double-octave passages.

But the real strength of her interpretation, and which made this such a fascinating reading, were the inner melodies and rhythmic niceties, especially in the scintillating finale, which made this familiar work sound so fresh again.

The orchestra made a telling contribution throughout, always mindful of the need to observe a correct dynamic balance with the piano, and with some truly delightful interplay with the soloist, particularly in the slow movement.

If Tancredi isn't perhaps the most electrifying of Rossini overtures, the Ten Tors string section, led by Malcolm Latchem, followed up with a sonorous and well-rounded performance of Barber's deceptively difficult Adagio, where the rich cello sound was a real plus.

Under Simon's intelligent and inspired direction, Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, distinguished by some exquisite upper-woodwind playing, rounded off a most entertaining programme, and once more reinforced the Ten Tors Orchestra's pre-eminence in the field.

PHILIP R BUTTALL

