

THE NASH ENSEMBLE OF LONDON
University of Plymouth Sherwell Centre
28/10/06

Concert will be difficult to top

If you thought you'd heard a champagne bottle pop, it was actually the lead violinist breaking her E string early on in Haydn's 'Gypsy Rondo' Piano Trio!

But a bottle of bubbly would have been the ideal complement to celebrate the 100th concert in the Plymouth Chamber Music Trust series. After a somewhat inauspicious start to this year's season, the Nash Ensemble truly entered into the party spirit, with pianist, Ian Brown, even taking the opportunity to share an anecdote with the packed audience, while the offending string was being replaced!

If the Haydn was full of high spirits, the piano quintets by Schumann and Elgar drew the very best from each player. Violinists, Marianne Thorsen and Malin Broman were superbly balanced, as were violist, Lawrence Power and cellist, Alice Neary, and there was always a sufficient richness of tone, coupled with sensitively-crafted dynamics, to allow strings and piano to combine as effectively in the pianissimo moments, as in the grandioso climaxes. But equally as important as the performances themselves, it was so apparent the players were enjoying every moment, and this is ultimately what it's all about

Yes, it'll probably take another decade or more to notch up the next hundredth concert, but this one's not only going to be an evening to relish for some years to come, but also a really hard act to follow!

REVIEW by PHILIP R BUTTALL
