

Amersham Festival of Music concert – Friday 8th January 2016

Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra

Conductor - Iain Ledingham

St Mary's Parish Church, Amersham

The 3rd concert of the Winter season held on Friday 8th January, St Mary's Parish Church, Amersham promised to be an evening filled with wonderful music.

Opening with Handel's 'Silete Venti' for Soprano and Orchestra, the soloist – Emily Forrest was in fine voice and gave a most beautiful rendition of this work – her voice filling the church to its rafters – what a wonderful start to the evening.

Charlotte Edwards, leader of the orchestra and soloist, gave us a little insight into the next work which was Vivaldi's 'Winter' from 'The Four Seasons'. The Orchestra, directed by Iain Ledingham on Harpsichord fully enjoyed playing this beautiful piece, needless to say the capacity audience enjoyed every second of it.

Bringing the first half of the concert to a close we heard Vivaldi's 'Oboe Concerto in A minor' for Orchestra and strings - soloist Christopher Hooker (also a member of the Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra) – fully captured the plaintive lyricism and lively virtuosity of the piece, the applause that followed was very well deserved.

The evening was living up to its expectations with the audience wondering if the second half could possibly live up to what we had just heard and enjoyed.

Well of course it did, we should have known better, beginning with Corelli's 'Christmas Concerto Grosso, Opus 6 No. 8', soloists Charlotte Edwards and Marjory King (violins), Ann-Isabel Meyer (cello), along with the Amersham Festival Orchestra played this work with the passion and the sensitivity of a

work that was composed for, and would have been played in churches, on Christmas Eve.

Back came Emily Forrest to sing 2 Italian songs, first being Lotti's 'Pur Dicesti' followed by Parisotti's 'Se tu m'ami. This is definitely someone to look out for in the future, they were beautifully sung and you did wonder how on earth it was possible to follow her performance.

Bringing the evening to a close we heard Albinoni's 'Concerto for Two Oboes in F Major (Opus 9 No.3) Once again Christopher Hooper returned, along with Deborah Goodyer (also a member of the Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra) as the two soloists. What an incredible performance – everyone was swept along with the beauty of the music, their playing and also that of the Amersham Festival Orchestra.

The audience burst into spontaneous applause as the last notes faded, it was certainly a great way to end a truly fantastic concert and we all have to thank Iain Ledingham for his charismatic leadership and the professionalism of the orchestra and soloists who bring so much joy to those of who attend these concerts on dreary – and sometimes wet – winter evenings.

Thank you to all the people involved in getting these concerts up and running we would be lost without your dedication.

Their next concert is Friday 5th February at St. James Church, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross, if you do not have your ticket yet, I strongly recommend that you obtain one asap as these concerts get sold out very quickly.

For online tickets – www.amershamfestival.org and follow the link

Kay Johnson

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