

Amersham Festival of Music concert – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra

Directed by Iain Ledingham

St. Mary's Church, Amersham

These wonderful concerts always seem to fall on nights when the weather is absolutely awful, the concert last Friday 9<sup>th</sup> was no exception, in fact we nearly got blown away just trying to get to the venue for an evening of Italian Baroque Music, and regardless of the weather it was a full house. What I find so great about these concerts, besides the professional quality of the music, is that the whole audience all mix together talking to one another, before, during the interval and at the end of the concert which reminded me of going to the opera in Italy. Everyone becomes one big family brought together by the music, which is in no small part due to the wonderful musicians, soloists and their charismatic leader Iain Ledingham. The soloists tonight were taken from the Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra, which in itself tells you a lot about the high quality of the musicians.

The whole concert was a delight and beautifully played, particularly moving was the 'Adagio for Oboe, Cello + Strings' by Zipoli. Christopher Hooker played the Oboe with great sensitivity, so did Ann-Isabel Meyer on Cello.

Charlotte Edwards (leader) and Marjory King – violins – with Ann-Isabel Meyer Cello were outstanding in the two Corelli pieces – 'Concerto Grosso in D. Opus 6' which opened the concert and 'Christmas Concerto Grosso No 6 Opus 8' played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

Rossini took us into the interval with his 'String Sonata in C Major' written when he was only 12 years old.

In the second half we heard the premier of 'Concerto per il Violoncello con Archi' (Amersham Concerto No.2.) by P. Lecosaldi (pen name of Peter Lea-Cox, distinguished organist, conductor and composer), this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> work written for the Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra. The audience were delighted to learn that Maestro Lecosaldi was in the audience, how marvellous was that, he received a very well deserved ovation from the audience, orchestra and Iain Ledingham.

Once again Christopher Hooker played 'Oboe Concerto in A Minor' by A. Vivaldi with great sensitivity bringing a superb concert and musical evening to an end. We now had to venture out into the absolutely terrible winds, made worse the torrential rain, but did we care, of course we did not as we left with the sound of the glorious music still ringing in our ears..

Thank you all for such a lovely evening.

Kay Johnson