

Review of the concert 6th Feb which was published in Bucks Examiner

Amersham Festival of Music concert – Friday 6th February, 2015

Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra

Conductor - Iain Ledingham

St. Mary's Church, Amersham

The last of the Autumn/Winter Series of concerts with the Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra (Leader: Charlotte Edwards) and their charismatic conductor Iain Ledingham was held Friday 6th February, at St. Mary's Church, Amersham.

It was a bitterly cold evening as we all gathered for what promised to be a wonderful concert with music by Beethoven, Mozart and Haydn.

The concert opened with 'Overture: The Creatures of Prometheus (Opus 43) – Ludwig Van Beethoven. The orchestra was much larger than usual for this work based on Goethe's treatment of the Prometheus legend. To say we were spellbound would be an understatement, from the very first note the music soared to fill the whole church, really if you had been listening to it on the radio you would be forgiven for thinking you were listening to a full symphony orchestra. The well deserved applause was deafening.

Then jokingly Iain turned to the audience. as members of the orchestra left, saying he hoped they would be back later.....

Next came two movements from the 'Haffner Serenade' – W.A. Mozart K250; Iain had chosen the Andante and Adagio-Allegro assai. The Andante contains a particularly fine solo for the oboe which leads to a strikingly romantic episode for full orchestra. The final movement starts with great beauty and solemnity taking us thru to the delightfully witty tour de force - both these movements were beautifully played. While we were all applauding like mad we were also thinking just how lucky to be able to attend such fabulous concerts right on our doorstep.

Taking us into the interval we heard 'Symphony No 43 in E flat major (Mercury) – Joseph Haydn. This splendid symphony, was played with great sensitivity, the Adagio being particularly beautiful leading us into the Finale - Allegro which was wonderfully vivacious and inventive. The audience loved it and the applause was once again deafening.

During the interval members of the audience got up and moved around chatting to one another like one big family, which we all feel we are.

The concert ended, with the extra musicians returning to their places, for 'Symphony No.2 in D Major – Ludwig Van Beethoven. As we listened to this it was difficult to understand how badly received it was when first performed. Tonight there was never any doubt of what we thought of this work and of the performance given by the Amersham Chamber Orchestra. Again you could be forgiven for thinking you were listening to a large full symphony orchestra; such is the dedication of all concerned. When the work finished the applause hit the roof with smiles all round from Iain Ledingham, the musicians and the audience.

We went out into the cold night with the wonderful feeling that we had witnessed something quite extraordinary and magnificent, which we had, who cared about the cold.

Thank you all so much and look forward to the next season of concerts

For tickets phone 0333 6663366 (our agent Ticket Source) or otherwise follow the link from our website

www.amershamfestival.org

Kay Johnson