



Beinn Artair Piano Trio

16th January 2016

The first concert of 2016 in the Mid Argyll Arts Association calendar was given by the Beinn Artair Piano Trio and attracted an audience of over 70 people who braved the inclement weather to support the musicians.

The Trio comprised Alice Rickards, violin, Sonia Cromarty, 'cello and pianist Oliver Rundell. They opened with Mozart's Trio in G Major K 564 in 3 movements. They were very much at home in this work and they caught the mood and style with clear articulation, fingering and attention to every detail within the score.

This was followed by Scottish composer Judith Weir's Piano Trio Two written in 2004. Throughout the three movements, there were many gaps or periods of silence which had a profound effect on the listener. The string instruments played at times high in their respective registers and this contrasted well with the percussive chords in the lower extremities of the piano. The ending was most unusual in that a series of single notes accompanied by chords from the piano came to a halt with the piano lid being slammed down. Their timing was impeccable and must have taken hours of practice. This was a most exciting and innovative work and was well received by the audience.

French composer Ernest Chausson is perhaps best known for his songs and was a pupil of César Franck and Claude Debussy. The Trio in G Minor, Op.3 in 4 movements is most descriptive and could almost be called the French version of the Four Seasons. In this work, the musicians really let themselves go as the music unfolded. Tonal colours and a wide range of dynamics were all treated with care as the various moods between the movements unfolded. There was a rhapsodic element in the elaborate piano part and throughout there were many unison passages for violin and 'cello, a feature in the music of French composers.

The artistes' enjoyment of the music was evident and they do indeed have a fantastic rapport. The performers were warmly applauded at the conclusion of the afternoon's recital and the audience were treated to a jolly, and humorous at times, encore of the well-known Gypsy Rondo from Haydn's Piano Trio No 1 in G

Sheila McCallum