



## Daniel Lehardt

1<sup>st</sup> October 2016

The first of October was gloriously sunny and, for those who attended the MAAA's first concert of the winter season in Ardrishaig Hall, the day ended with a fine piano recital given by the young Hungarian pianist Daniel Lehardt, a protégé of Young Concert Artist Trust based in London. By any standards, Daniel's programme was intensely classical in content. He opened with J.S.Bach's "Italian Concerto" BWV 971, a standard 3 movement work with a slow meditative aria-like central movement bracketed by two fast movements; in both these he projected the rhythmic counterpoint with precision.

Next we heard Brahms' too-rarely performed Op.118, a set of 6 contrasting pieces written late in his life. Daniel brought out the retrospective and personal nature of these – particularly the tender emotion of the slower ones –with great sensitivity.

After the interval we heard Schubert's Impromptu in C minor Op.90 with its repeated triplets and oscillations between the major and minor keys.

As a grand finale Daniel brought to his audience a true giant of the Classical repertoire, Beethoven's last piano sonata – No.32 in C minor Op.111. This monumental two movement work is unashamedly taxing for soloist and listener alike and places huge demands on the pianist at both technical and mental levels. This was a masterly interpretation with Daniel capturing his audience on this epic journey – the great struggles of the first movement and the sublime set of variations of the second. The last few variations with their constant ethereal trilling were truly other-worldly leaving one exhausted but at peace.

After that extraordinary journey it seemed almost sacrilegious to continue with an encore, but Daniel gave us a charming vignette by Bartok called "Evening in Transylvania" to round off a thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment.