



MAAA Recital - Murray McLachlan

11th February 2012

The accomplished Scottish pianist, Murray McLachlan, gave his fourth solo recital in Ardrishaig on Saturday to a full and appreciative audience.

For his latest concert, Murray chose as his theme The Pianist as a Hero, an interesting concept which permitted a great mix of piano composers and their music in near chronological order from Beethoven to Prokofiev.

The selected composers were not conventional heroes of the battlefield, but were seen as contributors to the advancement of piano writing, set against their personal and often debilitating health and other problems.

With great clarity, Murray introduced each piece explaining the features of each composer's life together with their individual contribution to music, which bound together an otherwise diverse set of pieces extremely well.

As always, Murray's playing was of the highest order with a full range of expression - contemplative in the third movement of Beethoven's E major Sonata op 109, delicate and brilliant in the Scherzo of Chopin's great B minor Sonata, surging the the Schubert Impromptu, and utterly brutal in the Finale of Prokofiev's Sonata No 7 - a piece requiring stamina and technique.

Despite slight technical problems with the piano in the first half of the concert, Murray gave a wonderful evening's entertainment - in a very generous and full programme lasting over two hours.

Philip Bowden-Smith