



Scottish Tango Ensemble ~ 15th September 2012

Mid Argyll Arts Association opened its 28th season of concerts with an exciting performance given by the Scottish Tango Ensemble. The group comprised Gemma O'Keeffe, violin, Paul Chamberlain, accordion, Tom Berry, double bass and Gregor Blamey, piano. These four dynamic musicians took the audience on a journey which featured the many styles of the Argentinian tango from the classical Salon and Milonguero through to the Nuevo tango associated with Piazzolla.

In a programme such as this, the music of Piazzolla was dominant. One of the highlights was his version of the 'Four Seasons', in this case, four portenas which bore a passing reference to Vivaldi or even Pachelbel in the final movement. There was a familiar ring to Dornato's *A Media Luz* and the *Tango Ballade* from Kurt Weill's *Threepenny Opera*, whilst there was a most sensitive rendition of the *Romansa Anadluz* by Sarasate played by Gemma and Paul. The latter showed his virtuosity in *Capriccio* by the Russian composer, Repnikov, and this was followed by the popular *El Choclo* and Piazzolla's *Adios Nonino*, written to mark the death of his father.

The enthusiastic audience demanded an encore and we were treated to a repeat of *La Muerte del Angel*, also by Piazzolla. This was another highlight and was perhaps the most dramatic and vivid interpretation of all sixteen tangos played. The evening was a dazzling display by dedicated devotees of this musical form. It certainly brought the feel good factor to all present in the North Church Hall last Saturday,

The concert was part of Scotland's National Chamber Music Day in which music clubs from all over Scotland participated.

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