



Tim Kliphuis Trio

Mid Argyll Arts Association excelled themselves on Saturday when they hosted an evening with the Tim Kliphuis Trio - Tim Kliphuis on fiddle, Nigel Clark on guitar and Roy Percy, bass. The group had just been awarded the International Jazz Award by the Scottish Jazz Federation and it showed. The winning combination of live musicians playing to an audience in a hall that was laid out like a jazz club left everyone clamouring for more.

The innovative improvisatory abilities of the three musicians had everyone spellbound as they were treated to variations on works from Vivaldi to Britten, with a little Grapelli and Piazzolla thrown in. The Gypsy influence, interwoven with traditional jazz styles, applied to well-known classical works, such as parts of Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and Pachelbel's Cannon, gave a new twist to these well-loved repertory works. And it wasn't just the music that enthralled. Each of the players demonstrated fantastic technique and speed fingering that would leave any musician, whether classical, jazz or folk, in awe. The compatibility within the group was obvious too, reading each other and joining in with smooth improvisation as demonstrated, for example, in the Copland based "Hoedown", moving effortlessly from the Hoedown to "Speed Bonny Boat" and back again to the "Hoedown". CDs of previous, and new recordings, were available to buy but as every rendition is unique by virtue of the improvisatory skills applied, no tune or piece will ever be heard the same twice. Your CD will be a reminder but it won't be what you heard and you will never hear what you heard again.

The evening was brought to a close with an encore that calmed the enthusiastic, feet stamping audience. A serenely beautiful rendering of Richard Strauss's "Morgen" was almost a lullaby and the audience went home happy and content, knowing that they had been present at one of the best jazz concerts to have been heard in years.

Kappa