



Review of concert - Scottish Reed Trio - 19th March 2011

Once again the Argyll and Bute Council opened the doors of their Council Chamber on Saturday 19th March for the Mid Argyll concert in the ABCT's current 6 concert tour given by the Scottish Reed Trio - three talented and enthusiastic young ladies - Heather Kent - bassoon, Frances Pybus - clarinet and Catherine Earnshaw - oboe.

After a welcome from Councillor Alison Hay, the audience were treated to a wonderful selection of pieces, mostly written specifically for this instrumental combination, and delivered to the highest level.

The main feature of the evening was the World Première of 'Dalriada', a specially commissioned musical suite for Argyll and Bute by composer, Dr. Oliver Searle, who announced his new composition.

The six movements represented Dr. Searle's experience of various places in, or aspects of, Argyll. These ranged from the quasi Gaelic psalm-singing in 'Temple Wood' to the dark colours of 'Corners' (Islay) - using the bass clarinet and cor-anglais to great effect - and the 1930's dance rhythms of Kildavanan (Isle of Bute).

The large range of colours and accessibility of "Dalriada" will ensure this suite a place in the chamber music repertoire, and the large audience gave the music and composer a warm reception.

The two French Trios by Jacques Ibert and Jean Francaix - classics in the repertoire - and also the Gordon Jacob "Trio" were played with great panache and obvious enjoyment.

Mozart's "Divertissement No.1" and Edward Elgar's 'Chanson de Matin' gave pleasant breathing spaces between the complexities of the other Trios, whilst the first playing of "Variations on a Theme" by Tarbert Academy music students (composed during their February workshop with the Trio) was a thoughtful and appreciated surprise.

Altogether a most enjoyable and varied evening's entertainment!

P.B-S.