



## Andrews Massey Duo

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

Last Saturday's concert was the first in the MAAA's winter series, and given by two talented young players - Emily Andrews playing the flute and David Massey on guitar.

The duo started their recital with three of Schubert's well-known songs arranged by Theobald Boehm to demonstrate the versatility of his newly designed flute. Emily produced some beautiful tone and phrasing in these songs. The Bach Suite and the Mozart Duo - the latter which followed the interval - demonstrated clearly that the flute and guitar were equals in every regard with delightful "conversation" between them.

Andrew then gave us a fine solo rendering of Barrios's "Un sueno en la floresta" transporting us to Latin America. The juxtaposition of clear melodic line and tremolando created a wonderful effect.

Next came two movements from Takemitsu's "Toward the Sea". This amazing and haunting composition was written in 1981 for the Greenpeace "Save the Whales" campaign. Emily's playing on the alto flute perfectly captured the "balearic effect".

On the lighter side, we were also treated to the duo's arrangement of 3 folk tunes - 2 English and 1 American - and two pieces by Caliendo; these latter with strong Latin American influence ended the duo's recital. Both groups were great entertainment with the former demonstrating the duo's love of and skill at improvisation.

Duos of a disparate nature face two inherent musical problems:

- a) the lack of original material written for the combination and hence reliance on arrangements and
- b) balancing the sound of the instruments - in this case the potentially powerful and penetrating sound of the flute and the softer and more intimate sound of the guitar.

Any prior doubts I had about these potential problems were, generally, proven unfounded and, judging by the audience's appreciation, the Duo produced a thoroughly enjoyable and varied evening's entertainment.

A good start to MAAA's season!