



Kosmos

3rd December 2016

Many of those who attended last Saturday's afternoon concert came to relive an amazing event in Mar.2012 when "Kosmos" first came to Lochgilhead. After that concert, John Holt, whose recent and sudden death has saddened all who knew him, wrote the critique of the event for The Argyllshire Advertiser. For him, this was probably the most exciting concert ever put on by the MAAA, and his in-depth write up describes in great detail this amazing trio's background, style and the excitement their playing generates. Nearly everything he wrote then remains pertinent to the trio's return visit. As I am incapable of matching the succinctness and eloquence of John's words, I would urge you to revisit his excellent critique on the MAAA's website: go to www.maaa.org.uk/reviews.html This is not laziness on my part, but respect for someone who loved all kinds of music and who recognised real artistry when he heard it.

However, to keep the record straight, it should be mentioned that there was a change in the line-up for this latest visit; instead of a cellist, Harriet Mackenzie (violin) and Meg Hamilton (viola) were joined by Milos Milivojevic – a Serbian accordion wizard. Milos was playing on a newly acquired instrument from which he drew an amazing range of colours. The accordion can be overpowering in the wrong hands, but not here; the balance between the instruments was perfection with the crisp "snatches" of the accordion adding much to the tangos and the virtuosic sections were mesmerising.

Whilst most of the arrangements played were very lively, the slow Serbian "Love-Song" in the first half was the emotional highlight of the concert; the build-up of the repetitions of this simple melody were tear-jerkingly beautiful.

After the interval, the trio played a piece by the Argentinian "tango-king", Piazzolla, which they dedicated to the memory of John Holt. This was particularly apt as, not only had John given so much to the MAAA over many years, but he always loved Piazzolla's music and the accordion. How he would have loved to meet Milos!

John was right, "Kosmos" are a class act and they gave us yet another truly memorable experience.

Philip Bowden-Smith