



Alison McNeill & Sasha Savaloni

20th October 2018

Last Saturday Ardrishaig hall was graced by musical talents Alison McNeill and Sasha Savaloni, a young Soprano and guitar duo whose performances have been described as “Quality music at its best”. The pair has performed all over Scotland as well as being broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland’s Classics Unwrapped multiple times.

The afternoon started with the couple’s typical Spanish repertoire, a warm “Les Filles de Cadix” that brought Bizet’s “Carmen” to mind. Following Seiber’s “Four French Folksongs” we were treated to the accomplished Savaloni playing us two solo pieces – originally Schubert lieder - now arranged for guitar and although he only had the six strings on his guitar Savaloni was still able to capture the rippling of water under the melody. The first act was finished with a light contrast of Scot’s songs including “Dream Angus” and was met with murmurs of agreement in the audience.

The second act began with a piece by Marco Ramelli by the name of “Moon”, the text was taken from a 14th century poet yet the music was modern and fresh and it certainly kept us on our toes. After three Spanish songs by Joaquin Rodrigo where we were told stories of a youthful girls wishing to be picked as a companion for the king and a miller’s wife staying true to her husband although her offer may be tempting, the two performed 3 of Granados 12 Tondillas. This was followed by a sentimental and personal depiction of Spain in Granados “Dance Española’s No.5” played by Sasha Savaloni.

McNeill and her partner finished with two Spanish songs by Turina, the first being an earthy and dramatic prayer to the virgin of hope and the second a feisty scorned woman with underlying tones of sadness. Yet we were surprised with an encore of a beautifully soft rendition “St Columba’s Prayer”.

All in all, an entertaining afternoon was enjoyed by all in Ardrishaig hall.

Eve Maxwell