



Trio Ecossaise Review

Saturday's concert was the 4th concert in Mid Argyll Arts Association Season. With the influx of COVID our concerts have had to be cancelled or dates changed so we were delighted to have Trio Ecossaise to perform on Saturday

The concert opened with the "Kegelstatt Trio" by Mozart. Much of the chamber music that Mozart composed was music for friends to perform and this is just one of these. This trio was originally composed for clarinet, viola and piano however the viola part can be performed on cello as Harriet ably demonstrated here. Very typically Mozart – easy to listen to and thoroughly enjoyable.

On to the "Craftsbury Trio" written by the American, Gwyneth Walker. This trio has 4 movements with each depicting the small town of Craftsbury, Vermont. "Up Country Toccata", "The lark in the morning", "You Can Buy It at the General Store," to the final movement "Craftsbury Common" depicting the Green with a white picket fence. The movements are as descriptive as their titles and showing many different skills on all instruments - fluttering sounds, jazz harmonies, numerous glissandos, syncopation, decorations and finishing with gentle rhythmic tapping. There is even a hint of Rhapsody in Blue in the 3rd movement. If you only listen to one piece again this is the one and should be seen live, if possible, not just listened to.

Rachmaninov's "Prelude in B minor" for solo piano was Claire's choice for the programme. This Prelude, "The Bell" was Rachmaninov's own favourite and was the one that he would often perform. The audience on Saturday evening were delighted to be introduced to it by Claire.

Brahms composed 4 chamber works which featured the clarinet later in life after a period when he wasn't writing anything at all. This was our 3rd trio of the evening and again very different in style allowing Jennifer (clarinet), Harriet (cello) and Claire (piano) to demonstrate their considerable skills as a trio to a very appreciative audience. An arrangement of "Consolation No.5" by Liszt for Trio Ecossaise was their encore. This was the 2nd visit by Trio Ecossaise to MAAA and judging by the reception they received then it is only a matter of time before they are welcomed back.