



Meadows Orchestra Wind Band

February 22nd 2020

On the evening of the 22nd of February, Lochgilphead Parish Church hosted the Meadows Orchestra Wind Band, a group of players from the full Orchestra which has for 40 years performed with critical acclaim to audiences in Edinburgh and beyond.

We started with Dvorak's "Serenade for Winds in D Minor, Op. 44" which is partly a tribute to Mozart's "Harmoniemusik" and was written in only two weeks. The beginning was strong and grandiose, you can immediately hear the Mozart influences from the onset. In the Second movement the Orchestra had a fun little game of pass the parcel with a descending sixteenth note phrase moving onto a whirling Oompa coming through evoking the Czech folk music. For the third movement we were given a swelling spiritual Andante con Moto which was fitting while sitting in a church with beautiful solos from the upper winds. In the finale, the group attacked the grand movement with ferocity which pulled the audience up by the boot straps compared to the lyrical movement prior. You could clearly see the enjoyment in the players.

In the second half after an interval of tea and coffee, the Orchestra grew to 13 players for Mozart's "Serenade in B flat Major, K361 - Gran Partita". Before we started, the audience were given a small history lesson on why the band had grown in size and about some of the instruments including the basset horn. The start was delicate with a fresh but very typical Mozart sound. The Menuetto was light with the upper winds almost dancing along. The Adagio in the third movement was lead by a tremendous oboe solo accompanied by a pulsing bass line, that not even the hail stones on the roof could distract us. The contrast of the grander Romance to the tranquil yet operatic fifth movement was a pleasant change of scenery through to the last two movements which both had finale like qualities, one a theme and variation and the other a "Turkish" style rondo. And in true Mozart for the end was clean, firm and splendid.

Overall the audience enjoyed thoroughly and as they bustled out the church into the cold night they were still murmuring about their favourites parts.

A note for future audience members, the next concert will be on Saturday the 21st of March where the Ugly Bug Trio will be playing 1920s and 30s stomps, blues and rags in the Parish Church Hall. The group has visited Argyll before and I recommend you turn up as it will be a great night of fun.

Eve Maxwell