

Nikita Lukinov – Saturday 5th Nov

What were you doing last Saturday afternoon? The place to be was Ardrishaig Public Hall for the latest MAAA Concert featuring Nikita Lukinov, who absolutely fulfilled his promotional material as “one of the most exciting pianists of a younger generation residing in Scotland”.

The programme opened with an introduction to Beethoven Sonata No.3 op2 where we learned that this sonata was dedicated to Haydn, has 4 movements rather than the usual 3 and that Beethoven had the idea that it may become a symphony. Nikita’s performance displayed the piano to its utmost from the light and gentle pianissimo opening to the dramatic and virtuosic passages of the later movements. An exciting introduction to Nikita.

The programme continued with a Rachmaninov Etude 1 op.39 completed in 1917, the time when the composer had to leave Russia. This is perhaps shown through the unsettled feeling and the challenging nature of the work, something Nikita was more than able to portray.

Tchaikovsky’s “Meditation” from Op.72 brought the first half to a close with the audience clearly delighted with Nikita’s expressive and thoughtful performance.

Liszt was the composer of choice for the 2nd half. His B minor sonata was completed in 1853 and dedicated to Robert Schumann by which time Liszt had “experienced everything” in life! It is a standard for concerts by virtuoso pianists, hence the reason Nikita included it in his programme.

“Wilde Jagd” or “Wild Hunt” was a final demonstration of exactly why Nikita Lukinov has been described as “one of the most exciting pianists of a younger generation residing in Scotland”. The audience were left almost speechless although “mind blowing”, “genius” and “terrific” were just some of the descriptions heard after as the audience slowly left. MAAA were delighted to be able to provide a concert with a performer of such ability on a Saturday afternoon in Ardrishaig. We are hoping to have a return visit in 2024-25 season so if you missed Nikita on Saturday his debut CD is coming out early 2023! MAAA next concert is on Friday 25th November with The Broen String Ensemble in Lochgilphead Parish Church.

