

Solent Concert Orchestra Concert Report – Sat 9 Feb 19

The Solent Concert Orchestra gave a concert entitled ‘Classics in the Forest’ last Saturday evening at St. Michael and All Angels church, Lyndhurst in aid of church funds under the baton of Simon Wilkins with pieces by Rossini, Coleridge –Taylor, Liszt, Britten and, last but not least, Simon himself.

The evening got off to a rousing start with Rossini’s overture to ‘The Barber of Seville’. This was followed by Samuel Coleridge –Taylor’s ‘Petite Suite de Concert’ comprising four delightful cameos, namely, ‘La Caprice de Nanette’, ‘Demande et Reponse’, ‘Un Sonnet d’Amour’ and ‘La Tarantelle Fretillante’. As mentioned in the programme notes, the Suite is a charming example of Coleridge-Taylor’s compositional style and demonstrates his skill in juxtaposing orchestral colour, texture and mood.

Next came what was, perhaps, the most difficult piece of the programme, namely, Liszt’s Symphonic poem – ‘Les Preludes’ with its complex cadences and high-speed arpeggios. The orchestra rose to the challenge magnificently and thoroughly deserved the ensuing enthusiastic applause.

The second half of the concert started with Benjamin Britten’s Five Courtly Dances from ‘Gloriana’. Although written for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, depicted music from the court of her Tudor predecessor, Elizabeth I.

Finally, the concert concluded with Simon Wilkins’s very own work, Symphony ‘Three Places’, which reflects the three movements entitled ‘Atlas’, ‘Harmony and Intervention’ and ‘The Humble Administrator’s Garden’. Although the piece was profound and modern, it is generously adorned with rich melodies and stirring cadences and undoubtedly deserves to be widely performed in the future. If the prolonged applause of the audience was anything to go by, they would agree. The evening was thus a great success.

The orchestra’s next concert is at The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Twyford on 19th May. Further details can be found at www.solentconcertorchestra.org.uk