



St Jude's in the opening concert



Lunchtime Proms

The Lunchtime Young Musicians Platform series were well worth visiting. There was a lot of talent on display and it would be nice if one could persuade more residents to attend recitals, which are not only interesting, but also free. Perhaps the publicity was not good enough - something to think about for next year.

The first concert, given by The Rasa String Quartet, young musicians from The Guildhall School, was of a very high standard, the String Quartet No 6 op 101 by Shostakovich being especially well played. Ras Vosylinte, Petr Benda, Anita Vucetic and cellist, David Cohen, made an excellent group.

The students from The Royal Academy of Music were forced to change their programme as the counter tenor, David Bates, was ill. It was a delightful and varied hour. David Soar (organ) played from Purcell's 'King Arthur'. James Elliott used his strong tenor voice to good effect in Puccini and Tosti. Grace Davidson, who sings with the St Jude's choir, was obviously the reason for the larger audience. She has a beautiful, steady soprano, equally at home in Monteverdi, Samuel Barber and the lovely 'The Water Mill' by Vaughan Williams. She closed the concert with a beautiful rendering of Schubert's 'The Shepherd on the Rock' accompanied by Becky Farrar on the clarinet. The interplay between voice and clarinet is one of the joys of this, one of Schubert's longer songs, surprisingly not often heard.

The final concert of the 1999 Proms...

...was held on June 21 at the North Western Reform Synagogue in Alyth Gardens. A simple, modernist building on the outside, its foundation stone was carved by the sculptor Benno Elkan. The hall where the concert took place was filled with works of art - paintings, wall hangings, embroidered ceremonial drapes and covers. The vivid colours of the stained glass threw light and colour into the simple architecture of the hall.

Here the London Archduke Trio; Nathaniel Vallois (violin), Liam Abramson (cello), Charles Wiffen (piano) performed with assurance the Brahms Piano Trio, no 3 in C, a classic, powerful work and Dvorak's Dumky Trio op 90, the word coming from the Ukrainian for meditation - duma. A folk song element runs throughout its melodic themes.

In between the two was a sparkling little work by an American, Paul Schoenfield. In the words of the composer, "My intention was to write a kind of high-class dinner music which could be played in a restaurant but might also (just barely) find its way into a concert hall". Well, here it made it! Ragtime, blues, film music and Broadway style were encased in a classical form. There were hints of Bernstein and Scott Joplin to mention just two; you could almost see the ghostly figure of the syncopated passages, and surely Doris Day lent a phrase or two. Informal and charming, it made its musical mark.

VERA SEGAL



Suburb soprano Grace Davidson (centre) with colleagues from the Royal Academy of Music, David Soar, James Elliott and Becky Farrar

The London College of Brass Soloists also had to change their programme due to the theft of a trumpet. Led by Dominic Field, they performed early music for trumpet, horn, trombone and tuba. Especially pleasing were

'Battle Suite' by Samuel Scheidt (1587 - 1654) and Isaac Posch Paduana and Galliarda IX, edited by Bernard Fitzgerald.

The final recital given by The Cusido Trio was, alas, not of the same standard. Nerves appeared

to get the better of Elsa Cusido during Handel's 'Sonate for Viola and Piano' and the gusto with which Ingrid Cusido attacked Schumann's 'Sonata in G Minor' was not to everyone's taste.

LÉONIE STEPHEN



The London Archduke Trio take a bow at the final Proms concert in Alyth Synagogue



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Garden Suburb Gallery exhibits local artist

The Garden Suburb Gallery's summer show is an exhibition of Freda Bolton watercolours 'Summer on the Suburb'. A popular painter of the Suburb

scene, Freda's watercolours have a freshness which complements the green of the Suburb and the delicate colours of her flower paintings. The Gallery, situated

at the Temple Fortune end of Hampstead Way, is run by Residents Association volunteers and is open 10 - 1 and 2 - 5 most days except Sunday.