

an even greater success



Conversation piece. In the 'green room' Grace Davidson and Susie Gregson, Patron of the Proms Erich Gruenberg and David Littaur.



Lucretia Walker, Proms organisers Susie Gregson, Yvonne Baker, and Alan Walker relax with jazz singer Stacey Kent and her husband and sax player Jim Tomlinson.



Some of the Brookland choir pose for a picture.



At the Last Night, sponsors Godfrey and Barr, flags were waved here by Mandy, Julian and Jake Weinberg while it was all too much for another member of the audience.



Vivienne Bellos



Proms new treasurer Simon Tesb keeps an eye on Luke Gregson selling patriotism on the evening before the England Brazil match.



Megumi Fujita, centre, with her sisters and Proms organiser Helen Roose.



Thomas Kirby, Oliver Rundell and Marianne Barton.

Max's brilliant performance of Haydn's C major concerto.

The next three evenings provided a nicely contrasting run of programmes, with the Brontë String Quartet striking an elevated note on Thursday with works by Haydn, Debussy and Beethoven, impressively performed by this group of rising young stars. Wind aficionados then had a generous evening of lollipops

on Friday from the Symphonic Wind Orchestra of North London, directed by Stuart Allen. The programme included Cécile Chaminade's Concertino (written in 1902 as a test piece for flute students at the Paris Conservatoire), beautifully played by Amanda Moore, and Vaughan Williams's tuba concerto; the excellent soloist was the freelance virtuoso Stephen Wick. The ever-popular

Stacey Kent and her band played to a packed house on Saturday night; her ballad singing in the second half was particularly enjoyable.

Finally there was the Last Night, given by the Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra, conducted by William Lacey, currently (while still in his twenties) staff conductor at the San Francisco Opera. His musicianship and choice of tempi were evident in his interpretation of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony.

The distinguished cellist Ralph Kirschbaum gave a supremely elegant and exciting performance of Tchaikovsky's Roco Variations, in which the orchestral accompaniment was sensitive and supportive, with some particularly fine playing by the woodwind. The traditional Last Night fare began with some very stylish Strauss, followed by our very own Grace Davidson, resplendent in sequined Union Jack, singing Sargent's arrangement of Arne's Rule, Britannia!, ably assisted by the audience in the choruses. But it was a pity that William Lacey did not do more to encourage the audience to sing the final verse of Jerusalem.

Let one should think that it was the evening performances that dominated the Festival,

there was in fact an equally rewarding series of concerts and recitals, for those who were able to attend them, at lunchtime during most of the week.

These began with a spirited performance by the Phoenix Concert Band and the Brookland Junior School Choir. On Tuesday there was a marvellous violin and piano recital by Schlomy Dobrinsky and Danny Driver. Wednesday's programme saw Matthew Beale and Oliver Rundell excelling in Schubert's Die Schöne Müllerin. Thursday's piano recital by Andrew Quartermain was another high point. On Friday, some fascinating sounds by Aidan McAtominey captivated the many school children present. The series finished with Oliver Rundell playing with the talented violinist Thomas Kirby. Oliver Rundell, who has done so much for this year's Proms, is about to take up an appointment as répétiteur with Scottish Opera. We wish him well and look forward to his return visit to the Proms 2003 next year in a performance of Poulenc's Organ Concerto. He will also be playing the newly restored St Jude's organ at a Music Aid concert on 12 October next.

REVIEWS BY
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