



Rudi Vis MP congratulates Susie Gregson and Richard Clegg on the programme



Audiences took advantage of fine weather and refreshments



Nicola Eimer with Helen Roose

included Mussorgsky's *Night on the Bare Mountain*, Berlioz's *Hungarian March* and hits from screen and stage. The star of the show, with a captivating performance of Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto*, was Sarah Williamson, formerly principal clarinetist in the National Youth Orchestra, finalist in the BBC and Eurovision 'Young Musician' competitions of 2002 and 2003, and now studying at the Paris Conservatoire. The other main attraction was Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, with Classic FM's Henry Kelly bringing a touch of Hibernian wit to the part of narrator.

Finally on Sunday we had the Last Night of the Proms, with stylish playing by the Southbank Sinfonia – a band made up of gifted recent graduates of UK music colleges under the baton of Simon Over. In keeping with the traditions of Henry Wood and the BBC, the concert began with more serious fare before giving way to high jinks. After a rousing performance of Berlioz's swaggering overture *Le Corsaire*, the centrepiece was a revelatory interpretation of Poulenc's deeply felt Organ Concerto, written in the shadow of the Second World War, by former

Cambridge organ scholar and St Jude's organist Oliver Rundell, now working as a répétiteur for Scottish Opera. Oliver had already put the magnificent and newly restored Father Willis organ through its paces at the lunchtime recital on Friday and was now able to realise his ambition to perform the Poulenc after the long and successful fund-raising campaign. Orchestra soloist Sara Bayley then gave a sparkling performance of Saint-Saëns' ever popular *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* for violin and orchestra, and the serious business was concluded with Berlioz's fine arrangement of Weber's *Invitation to the Dance*, a work originally for piano solo. That left the old favourites *Pomp and Circumstance* ('Land of Hope and Glory'), *Fantasia on British Sea Songs* (with 'Rule, Britannia!') and *Jerusalem*. The unbilled soprano soloist was Marie Elliott, who deported herself in suitably patriotic style, draped in a Union Jack. As always, a good time was had by all and we eagerly look forward to next year's season, on which planning begins almost immediately.

THOMAS & JENNIFER RADICE



Girls from Channing joined the Symphonic Wind Orchestra of North London for the first of the lunchtime Proms
Lunchtime recital by Sara Bailey and Vinciane Degroote



Lunchtime concerts

The wonderful weather certainly helped to make this year's lunchtime Proms such a success. It was good to see so many people there. What could be nicer than meeting friends and neighbours, eating delicious sandwiches and listening to music – and the music played by talented young musicians was free and good.

Outstanding were the four virtuoso students of Eric Gruenberg, three violins and a pianist, playing Vivaldi's Concerto for 3 Violins in F Major, as well as solos. Sara Bayley and Vinciane Degroote's recital for violin and harp proved delightful, especially Astor Piazzolla's 'Histoire de Tango' in which to the harpist beats the wood of the harp in rhythm. Nicola Eimer included the Chopin

'Grande Valse Brilliant', played by John Lill at his recital previously. It was interesting to hear two different performances.

Oliver Rundell's organ recital was enlivened by jolly introductions to his programme, especially a tale of Louis Vierne (1870-1937) composing 'Carillon de Westminster', inspired by hearing Big Ben chiming while using the telephone early in the last century.

The two female violinists of the Mimosa String Quartet are sixth form students; Gregor Riddell (cello) is a music scholar at Dulwich College while James Boyd (viola) is a teacher at the Guildhall. This attractive young group gave a lively rendering of Dvorak's String Quartet in D Minor.

LEONIE STEPHEN



The hardworking committee David Littaur, John Wheeler, Rev Alan Walker, Susie Gregson, Simon Tesb, Jennifer Radice, Yvonne Baker, Richard Clegg, Carol Kemp and Helen Roose



Not just union jacks at the Last Night!



Luke, left and David Gregson, right, with William Glendinning and Richard Orme sold patriotic gear to raise funds

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