

Thursday, 21st August 2008

REVIEW: Chichester Pro Camerata: first performance, St Paul's Church, Chichester.

With a rich programme of Baroque music, a new and young orchestra of professional musicians took Chichester by storm. Chichester Pro Camerata, with its directors Michael Sullivan and Adam Barker (who led from the violin), as well as Andrew Saunders (harpsichord continuo), produced a magical evening of beautifully phrased and enthusiastically performed works by Handel, J S Bach and Vivaldi.

The orchestra played with not only the faultless technique which we have come to expect these days from alumni of the great colleges of music, but also with a sensitivity which demonstrated their artistry as well.

The oboe concerto by Albinoni was in the hands of Christopher Braime. He played with authority and virtuosity throughout this challenging piece. Then the great Brandenburg Concerto No 3 by Bach brought the first half of the concert to a rumbustious end.

The highlight of the second half was Vivaldi's cello concerto in B minor, played with great assurance by 20-year old Ella Rundle. She has the technique, the sensitivity and the poise of a great cellist to come, or indeed of the one that she is already. The final item, Handel's The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba induced such a prolonged foot-stamping applause from the audience that the players gave a generous encore of the first allegro of the Brandenburg.

Val Biro