



ENCORE PRIMAVERA!

Jack Woolford

Our second Primavera Concert in the Town Hall more than justified our determination to secure their return to Dover. Although there were one or two fresh faces on the platform, the balance of their string sections was as exquisite as ever and their hallmark of sheer delight in music-making, which they communicate to one another as they play (even including a too-soon-turned page), continues marvellously to transmit to the audience. The animated clear precision of their playing of "classical" music, as in the Mozart Divertimento and, indeed in the early Mendelssohn Sinfonia and Rossini Sonata, is poised to perfection. Even more remarkable, therefore, is the inspired and lively but miraculously controlled rubato of their Bartok Rumanian Folk Dances and, finest of all the warm "romantic" passion of their Dvorak Serenade. If a section must be singled out, the celli and double bass were first amongst equals and it is possible to wonder if the controlling spirit of Paul Manley (taught by Jaroslav Vanecek!) is as much Slavonic as English.

Our Connaught Hall audience was smaller than that in the Stone Hall last year but our current weather was probably more responsible than the differences of architecture and ambience. Was it perhaps the programme? It was skilfully constructed to open and close with music from eastern Europe and Mozart obviously (and rightly) had to be included in his bicentenary year. Early and unfamiliar Mendelssohn and Rossini, however, though more than worth an airing precisely for being unfamiliar, may have been less tempting to our members and friends than Vivaldi or Grieg or Elgar, not to mention Tchaikowsky, all of whom wrote much more familiar masterpieces for string orchestra.

Prime credit for another successful social evening must go to Secretary Leo Wright who negotiated with endless patience and tact with Primavera and Eurotunnel and organised the publicity; and to Vice-Chairman John Gerrard who sought and obtained sponsorship from Television South, Dover District Council, Dover Harbour Board, Costains, the National Westminster Bank and Marks and Spencer. Other committee members organised ticket sales, the bar and acted as ushers. I am happy to learn from Treasurer Ken Berry that the books will balance and that we shall confidently sponsor another concert in the same venue on Saturday Sept 28th, this time by the Kent Concert Orchestra conducted by Col. Nevill and with a rather more popular classical programme including a Mozart piano concerto. I look forward to seeing you all there!

