

Encore Tykhonenko!

Jack Woolford

LIKE THE FIRST, also on a wet and windy evening, Yuri Tykhonenko's second piano recital filled the excellent theatre at the Astor College for the Arts on Saturday January 17 with an audience convinced in advance that their rapture would be repeated. They were not disappointed. That prodigious and faultless technique, allied to the most exquisite and tender sensitivity, was as potent with Beethoven and Chopin as it had been with Rachmaninov and Liszt.

Beethoven's early and much-played Sonata Pathetique re-emerged as powerfully passionate and stormy and as nobly sad as when it was new. All its majestic power was there in the thunderous first movement. Was I alone in sensing the influence of Chopin in the execution of the lyrical second movement?

The less well-known 32 Variations, also and characteristically in the

dramatic key of C Minor, showed, as the Pooles programme note so well said, that 'Beethoven was a brilliant improviser... unsurpassed in creating variations... repetition(s) of a theme... with modifications and embellishments'. All Beethoven is there: together with the reminder that he, too, was a piano virtuoso.

The programme note said that Chopin was almost self-taught as a pianist. Confronted in succession with three of his unique masterpieces, a Ballade, a Scherzo and a Polonaise, each and all of them with wildly contrasting thunders and whispers, I could only marvel even more at his genius. Yuri's personal interpretations combined towering passion and fierce discipline.

I await, as patiently as I can, his third recital on April 17, same place, same time, same sponsors and free. Please make a note of it!



Next Concert



Piano Recital by three distinguished pianists

Yuri Tykhonenko • Oliver Poole • Lora Dimitroua

Saturday 17th April 2004 from 7.30 to 9.30pm

at the Astor Theatre, Astor College for the Arts, Astor Avenue, Dover

☆ **Admission Free** ☆

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