

'BIG SOCIETY' SPECIAL

'Last Night' Debuts in Derby

Performances on stage in Derby's Market Place mark the city's first ever live music event based around a Big Screen relay of the Last Night of the BBC Proms... and a jazz sextet of sinfonia ViVA musicians bring their own unusual twist to the programme of events!

Triple Bop



and Friends



People living in and around Derby will have the opportunity to watch the entire Last Night of the BBC Proms screened live in an outdoor venue in the city along, for the first time, with live music sessions on stage. The Big Screen outside the Assembly Rooms is to be used to relay the event direct from London's Albert Hall on the evening of Saturday 11th September. The Proms screening from 7.30pm forms part of a programme of live musical entertainment in the Market Place starting at 4.00pm where performances on stage before the Proms and during its interval will set out to entertain and involve the expected crowds of 'prommers'.

ViVA's unique jazz combo 'Triple Bop' - **David Ayre** (Double Bass), **Matt Dunn** (Clarinet) and **Tim Gunnell** (Vibraphone) pictured top left - have been wowing audiences with their vibrant and exciting performances, so it only seems right to showcase them before the Big Screen event and during the interval!

Joined by three of their colleagues, **Anthony Thompson** (Trumpet), **Jack Ross** (Guitar) and **Dom Sales** (Drum Kit) for a sextet spectacular, we wait with baited breath for a variety of original arrangements and blistering improvisations on a selection of great tunes, paying homage to the BBC's 'Last Night' programme. What a great way to get In The Mood with some

classic jazz, Spikey Tchaiky and maybe a dose of Cool Britannia to warm up those voices. Oh yes... audience participation is to be expected! Dave, Tim, Matt, Dom, Jack and Ant have all played in many Last Night of the Proms orchestral concerts, whether with the BBC or other orchestras across the country, so this is a groovy twist on their usual involvement in the Big Event!

Peter Helps, sinfonia ViVA's Chief Executive, has been responsible for coordinating the whole event which includes four other live music groups. He comments: "It has been such fun working on this event. Something new for ViVA, but still very much at the heart of what the Orchestra is about. With this and Darley Park the week end before Derby is able to enjoy great music making in wonderful public spaces. And it is free for the audience!"

Louise Angell, Derby & Leicester Screen Manager - BBC Audio & Music, is delighted with the coming together of the elements of the evening in this latest outing for the Big Screen technology. She commented: "The Last Night of the Proms is one of the most popular classical music concerts. As well as the main event from the Royal Albert Hall in London, this year we're really pleased to be adding some of our finest local entertainment to the line up courtesy of sinfonia ViVA and partners Derby City Council and The University of Derby, live in the Market Place ahead of the main event. It promises to be a wonderful evening and I hope people will bring their flags for a lively, rich and varied musical offering."

Barbara Whieldon, Outdoor Events Manager for Derby LIVE, added: "Derby LIVE are proud to be working in partnership with the University of Derby, sinfonia ViVA and the BBC to bring the screening of one of the most popular classical concerts in the world, The Last Night of the Proms, to the Big Screen in Derby. We're especially pleased that this year's event will include for the first time live local entertainment on the Market Place and we hope to welcome people of all ages and music lovers from all across Derbyshire to come along and enjoy the evening."

Andy Potter from BBC Radio Derby will compère the proceedings.

BBC Proms BIG SCREENS

Join in the magic of the Last Night of the Proms streamed live from the Royal Albert Hall.

Traces from throughout the Proms season pop up with music by Wagner, Parry, Rodgers and Hammerstein, along with the *Hornpipe* from the Pirates of the Caribbean movie and the traditional classics such as *Rule, Britannia!*, *Jerusalem* and *Land of Hope and Glory*.

Audiences around the UK can also join the Royal Albert Hall crowd in singing along to the 'Bridal Chorus' from Wagner's *Lohengrin* and 'You'll never walk alone' from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*.

Performances by:

- Renée Fleming** *soprano*
- Maxim Rysanov** *viola*
- BBC Singers**
- BBC Symphony Chorus**
- BBC Symphony Orchestra**
- Jirí Belohlávek** *conductor*

INSIDE ~ ~ ~ 'BIG SOCIETY' SPECIAL... Threat or opportunity? Peter Helps discusses the response of Arts organisations to the challenges being posed as the government's vision of the future begins to unfold ~ ~ ~



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Sunday 5th Sept

Darley Park, Derby - event starts 6.00pm
Admission is FREE: parking and other restrictions apply

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-09-05-derby.shtml

The Darley Park Concert

The programme (subject to change) includes:

Wagner:	Flying Dutchman Overture
Wagner (arr. Hall):	Spinning Chorus
Mendelssohn:	Hebrides Overture
Verdi:	La Donna e Mobile
Elgar:	Variation V111 "W.N." and Variation IX "Nimrod" from Enigma Variations
Puccini:	Nessun Dorma
Coates:	Dambusters March
Steiner:	Charge of the Light Brigade
Duncan:	March from Little Suite
Lehar:	Girls were made to Love and Kiss
Botsford (arr. Hall):	Black and White Rag
Strauss:	Bahn Frei
Lennon/McCartney:	Yellow Submarine
Strauss:	Music of the Spheres
Løvland/Graham:	You Raise Me Up
Freedman/Myers:	Rock Around the Clock
Mussorgsky:	Babayaga and Great Gate of Kiev



What a great way to end the summer holidays! The Darley Park Concert - the biggest FREE concert of its kind in the whole of Britain - is here to raise the spirits with a sparkling selection of favourite classics and a peppering of musical surprises... This year's theme is famous people associated with Derby so expect tributes to the likes of Joseph Wright, Florence Nightingale, Samuel Plimsoll, Steve Bloomer and Samuel Johnson. Come along and see if you can work out the musical connections! **James Holmes** returns to conduct sinfonia ViVA in this annual spectacular concert and they are joined by guest singer **Philip O'Brien**. Events start at 6.00pm and the whole evening is wrapped up with the traditional music and firework display as the sun sets over the perfect natural setting that is Darley Park. Come along and be part of a musical celebration of Derby's famous sons and daughters!

PLEASE OBSERVE PARKING AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS. Car Parking £5 at St. Benedict's School on Duffield Road. In the interests of safety, please do not bring barbecues, sparklers, animals (a firework display is scheduled to take place as part of the evening) tents or gazebos to the park. A torch and suitable outdoor clothing may be useful. Help to keep the park tidy by disposing of your rubbish carefully. Further details from Derby Tourist Information Centre 01332 255802 Minicom 01332 256666.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Derby LIVE, RAM FM, East Midlands Trains and Arts Council England

sinfonia : 1000 Club

An invitation from
sinfonia ViVA's
Fundraiser
Sally Anne Tye



ViVA is **your** East Midlands orchestra and needs **your** support

Last year **30,820 people** were able to appreciate the talents and music of ViVA

Over **4,560 young people** participated in ViVA-led creative and education programmes

By becoming a **ViVA 1000 Club member** you can be part of the region's only professional orchestra, attracting world-class artists and performers and supporting the musical needs of the region

Just **£83.33 per month** will help to provide the East Midlands with world class music - and will bring you **a range of benefits** in return -

- Tickets x 12 to any concert of your choice over a 12 month period (excludes New Year's Eve)
- Tickets x 12 to any education culmination project of your choice over a 12 month period
- Priority booking for events through the Fundraiser
- Access to 1 rehearsal over a 12 month period
- The opportunity to meet André de Ridder and our musicians during post-concert drinks
- Credit in the programme of a **ViVA 1000 Club** sponsored concert
- Credit on the **ViVA 1000 Club** Supporters page on our website

Please note that for Gift Aid purposes the commercial value of the Member's benefits is up to £380 (plus £66.50 VAT). The balance of £553.50 will be treated as a voluntary donation and is eligible for Gift Aid.

To find out more call **Sally Anne Tye** on **01332 207566** or email sally@vivaorch.co.uk

Saturday 2nd Oct

Djanogly Recital Hall, Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham at 7.30pm
 Tickets: £15 (£12 concessions) from the Box Office: 0115 846 7777
www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-10-02-nottingham.shtml

Wednesday 6th Oct

Lincoln Drill Hall at 7.30pm
 Tickets: £12 (£10 concessions / £7 students) accompanied under 16s free Box Office: 01522 873894
www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-10-06-lincoln.shtml

||| sinfonia ViVA with Colin Currie

Stravinsky: Apollo (version for string orchestra)
Schwertsik: Now You Hear Me, Now You Don't
Mozart: Divertimento K136

sinfonia ViVA directed by **Benedict Holland** renews its long association with the amazing talent that is percussionist **Colin Currie** in this exciting visit to two venues with a programme of compelling classics.

Commissioned to write a ballet on any theme of his choosing for a forthcoming music festival at the Library of Congress and underwritten to the tune of \$1000 by musical philanthropist Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, Stravinsky gravitated to Greek mythology and elected to centre his luscious composition on Apollo, the leader of the muses. Originally titled Apollon Musagète (Apollo, conductor of the Muses), the work was begun in 1927 and premiered the following year. The stateside production



Photo credits: top right - Ben Phillips: above - Chris Dawes



choreographed by Adolph Boam was quickly surpassed in Europe by that of George Ballanchine which featured Stravinsky himself conducting, and it was this first collaboration between Ballanchine and Stravinsky by which the work achieved wide popularity. Stravinsky would later make small changes to the score in 1947, and Ballanchine a major revision in 1978 which omitted the prologue. Tonight's version is that for string orchestra.

Kurt Schwertsik is the Austrian-born founder of the Third Viennese School and composer of orchestral, stage, vocal and chamber music. Colin Currie performed the premiere of his Marimba Concerto in London in February 2009. The work's title *Now You Hear Me, Now You Don't* reflects the coming-and-going part of the marimba - in places, the instrument is prominent while in others it fades into the background with just a base line or even single notes - throughout the five gorgeous movements of this bright, engaging and mesmerising work.

Mozart's Divertimento K136 is one of a collection of three divertimenti he wrote in Spring 1772. Its involving and warmly resonant themes have a youthful nature, and the piece displays a lively energy. Musical beauty personified...

Gorgeous classical melodies and virtuosic performances... Come and be entertained by sinfonia ViVA!

Djanogly concert supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England. Lincoln concert supported by Rolls-Royce plc, sinfonia ViVA, Lincoln Drill Hall, Lincoln City Council, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England.

Audience comments from ViVA's concert at Lincoln Drill Hall in February 2010, Benedict Holland (director)...

*"Enjoyed the wonderful, informal, relaxed, unpretentious evening of music beautifully played by ViVA."
 - Judith O'Laughlin / Peter Duxbury*

*"Most enjoyed the energy, verve and enthusiasm of the musicians."
 - Bonny Ambrose*

*"Enjoyed the selection of the music and the jovial, relaxed, polished way that it was presented. A magical evening!"
 - name supplied*

Saturday 16th Oct

The Palace, Ibstock, Leicestershire at 7.30pm

Tickets: £15, available from Halls of Ibstock, 10-16 High Street, Ibstock or on 01530 260460 during shop hours 9.00am - 5.30pm Mon - Sat
www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-10-16-ibstock.shtml

||| sinfonia ViVA in Ibstock

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No.3
Pachelbel: Canon and Gigue
Handel: Concerto Grosso Op6 No.7 in Bb
Mozart: Divertimento K136
Vivaldi: The Four Seasons

Leader **Benedict Holland** directs from the violin as sinfonia ViVA comes to The Palace in Ibstock for the first time with a terrific programme of popular orchestral classics.

Bach wrote the six Brandenburg Concertos between 1718 and 1721, a period during which he served as Kappellmeister in the small German town of Köthen whilst also having control of a small orchestra. Concerto No.3, for strings alone, features dramatic and complex interaction between the different instruments. Pachelbel's Canon and Gigue, part of his G major Partita for Strings, has become one of the most popular of the composer's pieces. In 1739, Handel composed a total of twelve Concerti Grossi, No.7 of which is being performed in tonight's concert. They have been described as 'the highest manifestation of Handel's compositional skills'. Mozart's lovely Divertimento K136 draws the listener in with its charm and warmth.

After the interval, it's on to Vivaldi's The Four Seasons - a work that needs little introduction; it was composed as the title suggests to reflect musically the different states of nature, each movement of the four concerti on the original score being preceded by a scene-setting sonnet in Italian - attached, it is believed, by the composer himself.

Come along and savour this programme of radiant and charming pieces!

Supported by Orchestras Live, North West Leicestershire District Council and Arts Council England.



Photo: Marco Borggreve

November 2010

Tuesday 2nd Nov

Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham 7.30pm

Tickets: £10 to £32. AFTER:hours concert £3 to non-bookers

Box Office: 0115 989 5555 www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-11-02-nottingham.shtml

||| sinfonia ViVA with Natalie Clein in Nottingham

Stravinsky: Pulcinella Suit
Barber: Cello Concerto in A Minor, Op22
Sibelius: Symphony No.3 in C Major Op.52

... followed by After:HOURS concert, 9.40-10.15pm (approx.), programme as follows:

Stravinsky: Octet for wind instruments
Bach: Cello Suite No.2
Anna Meredith: New work inspired by the Stravinsky Octet

Principal Conductor **André de Ridder** and sinfonia ViVA are joined by the internationally celebrated cellist **Natalie Clein** for tonight's concert in Nottingham. Her exceptional musicality has earned her a number of prestigious prizes including the Classical Brit Award for Young British Performer of 2005, and in 2008, she was nominated in the Classical Brits' Best Female Artist category.

Stravinsky's ballet Pulcinella was a turning point in the composer's work as he moved into his neoclassical phase. Having a single act structure, it premiered in Paris in 1920 with set design and costume by Picasso. The Suite derives from the ballet, and like the ballet itself which was revised in the late 1940's, Stravinsky would go on to rework it as late as 1965. A hugely challenging three movement work for a cellist, Barber's 1945 Cello Concerto in A Minor, Op22 was composed for the Russian cellist Raya Garbousova. It won Barber an award shortly after, and its popularity has steadily increased with time. Sibelius composed the Symphony No.3 in C Major Op.52 in 1907. In the context of the 7 symphonies he composed and which account for much of his enduring popularity, No.3 has an enjoyable simplicity which sets it apart from both the more overtly gushing qualities of Nos 1 and 2 and the gravity of those that would follow.

And for those thirsty for more music, there's a special AFTER:hours late-night concert from 9.40pm to 10.15pm (approx.) featuring a second gorgeous helping of Stravinsky in the form of his Octet, plus Composer in the House Anna Meredith's own composition inspired by the piece, as well as an enchanting performance by Natalie Clein of Bach's Cello Suite No.2.

Supported by sinfonia ViVA, Britten-Pears Foundation and Arts Council England. The AFTER:hours concert is additionally supported by Orchestras Live. Composer in the House is a Royal Philharmonic Society and PRS for Music Foundation initiative.

*'Clein plays everything
with passion'
- The Times*

Photo: Ray Burmiston



Sunday 21st Nov

Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford-on-Avon 7.30pm
Tickets £25, Concessions £24, Savers £23, Under 18s £10
Box Office: 01225 860 100 www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-11-21-bradford-on-avon.shtml

||| sinfonia ViVA with Antje Weithaas in Bradford-on-Avon

Schubert: Symphony No.2 in B flat, D125
Berg (arr. Tarkmann): Violin Concerto
Mozart: Symphony No.39

'Antje Weithaas belongs to the great violinists of our time'
- FonoForum

The sparkling **Antje Weithaas** (violin) renews her association with sinfonia ViVA in tonight's programme with Principal Conductor **André de Ridder** for this much-anticipated return visit by the orchestra to the Wiltshire Music Centre.

Begun in 1814 and finished the following year, Schubert's bright Symphony No.2 was dedicated to Innocenz Lang, the headmaster of his former school, and may have been intended as a gift for performance there. Its first public premiere is thought to have been in London in 1877. The piece's opening bears a close resemblance to Beethoven's overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*.



Photo: Marco Borggreve

Berg's Violin Concerto premiered in 1936, the year after his death. It was to be his last work and is the one by which he is best known. It is dedicated "to the memory of an angel": the daughter of Mahler's former wife had recently died from poliomyelitis and Berg, who had an outstanding commission from the violinist Louis Krasner to fulfil (Krasner who would subsequently perform the Violin Concerto's premiere) took this as his inspiration, turning to the task with devotion. In doing so, he left unfinished (forever as it turned out) the opera *Lulu* that he had been working on. Tonight's arrangement of the piece is that by Tarkmann.

Mozart was nearing the end of his symphonic output when he produced the Symphony No.39 – only 2 further compositions would follow, also in 1788. The overall impression of the piece, particularly early on, is one of gentleness and warmth, punctuated by occasional forays into more energetic and urgent moments.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, sinfonia ViVA, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England



Anyone can get the ViVA Newsletter FREE each month just by sending us their email address. Spread the word!

Tuesday 23rd Nov

Assembly Rooms, Derby 7.30pm
Ticket details from the Box Office: 01332 255800

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-11-23-derby.shtml

||| sinfonia ViVA with Benedict Holland (violin) in Derby

Schubert: Symphony No.2 in B flat, D125
Weill: Violin Concerto
Mozart: Symphony No.39

"...the brilliant solo violinist in Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending"
- Nottingham Evening Post

sinfonia ViVA's Leader **Benedict Holland** is the soloist in tonight's powerful programme of classics with Principal Conductor **André de Ridder**.

Begun in 1814 and finished the following year, Schubert's bright Symphony No.2 was dedicated to Innocenz Lang, the headmaster of his former school, and may have been intended as a gift for performance there. Its first public premiere is thought to have been in London in 1877. The piece's opening bears a close resemblance to Beethoven's overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*.

Although much of Weill's output was intended for the stage, he nevertheless produced a number of purely orchestral works in their own right. One such was his Violin Concerto which originates from 1924. A vibrant, intense work of obvious strength, the work epitomises the complexity that was to become Weill's trademark.

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Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Derby LIVE, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England



sinfonia *VIVA!* **New Year's Eve Classical Gala 2010**

Friday 31st December 2010, 7.30pm Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham

Land of the Midnight Sun

Featuring

Grieg	Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 16 & In the Hall of the Mountain King
Wagner	Ride of the Valkyries
Sibelius	Finlandia
Nielsen	Maskarade Overture

plus a seasonal selection of Strauss pieces !

Photo courtesy of Patrick Kelley / US Geological Survey

**Book a Premium Seat and receive
a Programme plus a Bar voucher !***

Ticket Prices: £31 to £9

*Vouchers sent with tickets and redeemable at concert on 31st December only Conditions apply - ask at time of booking



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The Big Challenge of The Big Society



A new threat to the Arts... or a new opportunity to secure its future? Where once artistic principles alone were held as the measure of worth, now as sinfonia ViVA's Chief Executive Peter Helps argues, the coming economy-wide focus on cuts is stimulating Arts organisations to work together to marshal hard facts and figures - ammunition in the battle to justify the continued financial support of those with a proven track record of delivering value for money and meeting social need

to lay back, put up one's feet and enjoy a bit of down time. Not this year it isn't. The new coalition government has started at a really fast lick. We know cuts are coming, but we don't know what these will actually be. Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sports, has stated his support for the principle of public funding for the arts, albeit with the caveat that they must share their fair portion of the pain. So the Arts sector is working hard to prepare arguments, lobbying decision makers and taking part in a whole raft of scenario planning sessions - both financial and artistic.

Here at ViVA we are doing our bit as well. I was elected on to the Arts & Business/National Campaign for the Arts "Culture Forum" which is meeting over the summer. The Forum draws on expertise from across the cultural field and is looking at areas such as public, private and earned income, how they work together currently and how the landscape may change after the Comprehensive Spending Review on 20th October. This is not just a talking shop. A report on recommendations and ideas will be produced at the end of the summer.

Running in parallel with the Forum is a public inquiry instigated by the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee. The Committee is asking between now and Sept 2nd for views on the impact on cuts, how organisations in the sector can work better to avoid duplication of effort (and achieve savings) and the level of subsidy required to maintain a vibrant sector. Anyone can contribute so if you have something that will help us why not visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/culture-media-and-sport-committee/news/committee-launches-a-new-inquiry-into-the-funding-of-the-arts-and-heritage/>. ViVA will be making a contribution to this as well.

So, as you can see there is a lot going on right now. You too can help by lobbying influential friends and acquaintances, or even your MP. Hopefully you will agree with me that there is no

Summer break. School holidays. Parliamentary recess. Anyone would think this was the time

discussion necessary around the need for the Arts or the existence of your own regional Orchestra. However, we may need to explain what we do and achieve in a different way in the current climate.

For example, you may be interested to know that last year ViVA received a grant from the Arts Council of around £185,000. In that same year it spent over £220,000 on delivering education projects and their associated concerts in the year - a real return on the government investment of around 19%.

Alongside that return the participants in ViVA's education projects are learning and developing 'transferable life skills' - self esteem, team building, social and communication skills and, most importantly for the future of the country and all its industries, creativity and innovation.

Developing these skills in our participants will help them fulfil the role expected of them as The Big Society gathers momentum.

Over the last few years the roles of the state and the private sector have squeezed the citizen's role in society. As the state starts to

contract a vacuum will emerge for the citizen's role to fill. It is only right and proper that individuals are given as much help and support both to energise them to fill this gap and to develop their skills to participate fully in their communities.

Participants in ViVA's education projects are learning and developing 'transferable life skills' - skills to help them fulfil the role expected of them in The Big Society

Last year ViVA's spend on education projects exceeded its Arts Council grant by £35000 representing around a 19% real return on every pound of government money invested in it

The creative process which participants undertake and the performance alongside the Orchestra are central to our artistic ethos and, as everyone who has attended a culmination performance will know, the contribution of the non-professionals involved in our projects never ceases to amaze us (and them!). Through that process participants are expected to stretch themselves further than they thought possible and achieve greater things than ever before. Surely this is exactly the sort of ambition we want every citizen to have for their community.

Right at the heart of all this is, of course, the Orchestra itself. Without it we could not do everything else. Stand-alone concert performances continue to capture and delight audiences across the Country and help our players to develop the skills they bring to all aspects of our work. You cannot have one without the other.

Peter Helps

Getting To Know You

Meet ViVA's newest member of staff Sally Anne Tye



I am a new face to many of you, our sinfonia ViVA friends, and one of my first priorities is to get to know you and to learn about your relationship with the orchestra, before I look at ways to develop, deepen and grow support.

Accessibility, making the work available to all, is a claim made by many organisations. This is at the very core of sinfonia ViVA, one of our unique qualities, which as a seasoned concertgoer you will know. In future months I look forward to giving you an insight into the way we work and share our exciting plans for the future as we

build up to our 30th anniversary year in 2012.

Behind the scenes, the ViVA team are busy preparing for the concert-tastic autumn, and working on 2 very different large scale education projects either side of Christmas in Lincoln and Derby. The Fever programme continues at Rainbows Hospice and children's hospitals across the region, we are exploring how to build on the success of the Beanbag Prom series in partnership with Nottingham's Royal Centre, plus there are many more projects in development.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the autumn and thank you for your continued support, which in this fragile economy is evermore vital to us. In the meantime if you have any thoughts and ideas about any of our activities I look forward to hearing from you.

Sally Anne Tye

In Review

sinfonia ViVA ensemble at Buxton Festival St. John's Church, Buxton, Wednesday 21st July 2010 by Mike Wheeler



For their annual visit to the Buxton Festival, sinfonia ViVA put together a programme of music for strings by three great opera composers (all of whom featured, one way or another, in the Festival's opera programme this year). The difference is, of course, that while for Mozart and Richard Strauss instrumental music was as important as their operatic output, for Verdi it was barely even a sideline.

All the same, his E minor String Quartet (heard here in Yuli Turovsky's version for string orchestra) is a substantial piece, even though it makes no claim to Beethovenian profundity. ViVA's performance was robust and vigorous in the first movement, elegant in the second. They brought out the serenade-like quality of the third movement trio, and the fugal textures of the finale were pointed up with wit and precision.

The concert opened with Mozart's Divertimento in D, K136, which, like its two companions, K137 and 138, is so often treated as a warm-up to be trotted through before getting on to the real business of the evening. Instead ViVA and conductor Nicholas Kok handled it with real care and attention, with all repeats second halves of all three movements as well as first in place. The outer movements were bright and chirpy, while the central andante, taken at a nicely flowing tempo, was played with real poise.

The centrepiece was Strauss's *Metamorphosen*, his lament for the destruction inflicted on German culture during World War 2. ViVA's performance both rich in sound and intricately detailed gave the music real dignity, and even found a positive tone in the middle section (Strauss reliving the glory days? Aspirations for better times ahead, even?) before the clouds closed in again for the work's tragic ending.

After the interval came the String Sextet that opens Strauss's last opera, *Capriccio*, in which the players captured a mood I can only describe, paradoxically, as a kind of relaxed intensity.

Mike Wheeler

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André de Ridder