

Tayside Symphony Orchestra

The versatility of Tayside Symphony Orchestra (TSO) has clearly been apparent throughout the 2019 concert series. Each concert has been in complete contrast to its predecessor and the conductor, Richard Allan, has shown that he and the orchestra are comfortable in tackling a variety of musical genres.

Saturday evening in the Reid Hall, Forfar, took the form of a traditional classical concert. From the bright, whimsical opening with Nicolai's Overture, The Merry Wives of Windsor, through Bruch's meditative Kol Nidrei to the final work of Dvorak's From the New World Symphony, the orchestra provided a wonderful evening of entertainment.

The soloist was Matthias Feile, former Principal 'Cellist with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and also the Philharmonia Orchestra. The understanding between the soloist and conductor was evident throughout and their vision and expectations were clearly communicated to the orchestral players.

The main feature was undoubtedly the playing by Matthias and his selection of pieces - Andante Cantabile by Tchaikovsky, Allegro Appassionata by Saint-Saens and Bruch's Kol Nidrei. Each piece had been selected to demonstrate the full range of sounds and emotions that can be drawn by a skilled cellist and in this, Matthias excelled. He demonstrated a simply wonderful ability to demonstrate the cello in all its variety. The whole orchestra provided a very sympathetic accompaniment throughout and particular mention must be made of the accompaniment which was required solely from the strings section in Tchaikovsky's Andante Cantabile. Matthias was warmly welcomed by the audience on his arrival and was enthusiastically appreciated at the end of his pieces.

The second half of the concert featured Dvorak's Ninth Symphony, From the New World. The haunting Cor Anglais solo during the 'Largo' movement was particularly memorable and the resounding melodies in the other three movements were played musically and with gusto by the orchestra. The orchestra's enthusiasm for this well-known symphony was infectious and several audience members left the Hall humming some of the key themes.

The concert rounded off the 2019 series in tremendous style, leaving the audience looking forward to the first concert of 2020 which will take place in the Reid Hall in February.