

Salisbury International Arts Festival

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra played in the Cathedral, on Friday 3rd June. They performed a repertoire including pieces from Ravel, Tchaikovsky and Vaughan Williams.

The orchestra were set up at the West Door, so all the seating was facing in the opposite direction to the normal layout. They were on staging, so even sitting in the rear nave, you could see.

The sound quality was phenomenal, considering that there was no sound equipment to enhance the volume. The acoustics were inspiring; you could hear the sound rising towards you. Particular pieces had a large range of dynamics, and these were heard with good contrast. There was a solo violinist, Jennifer Pike, and even over the orchestra's accompaniment you could hear her well, and the sound was detailed, it wasn't lost in the Cathedral. You could see the conductor, Andris Nelsons, and the orchestra moved together, with the strings bowing in the same direction.

The performance was split with an interval of twenty minutes; this was welcomed as chance to stretch your legs, and meet the orchestra. I think the setting of the Cathedral added to the experience of hearing the CBSO play. It was very enjoyable and the sound was incredible.

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