

Trio Hochelaga Captivated Listeners

Kelowna Community Concert Association continued its winning season on Tuesday in the Kelowna Community Theatre, presenting Trio Hochelaga from Montreal, in a wonderful evening of Piano Trio music.

From reading their advance notices, I was expecting a somewhat light program, with perhaps some French Café music. Instead, we were treated to three marvelous trios: Beethoven Op. 1 No.1; Dvorak Op 26 and Schumann Op 63, and what a treat it was.

The Beethoven, an early work had an almost Mozartian style in the first two movements, and the Trio carried it off with grace, delicacy and charm. The last two movements became more agitated, and again, the group was true to the music

The Dvorak was written some years before he moved to the United States and has in parts a folk style with Slavic overtones. Full of emotion and passion, it takes consummate professionals to bring it to life. Indeed they did. They tackled the virtuoso passages with energy and drive, always with something in reserve. The softer gentler passages were gentle and most appealing. At times it seemed the strings were muted, but it was the sound of controlled pianissimos.

The Schumann is full of mood changes, befitting his personality, some of them abrupt, others gradually taking over. These changes were made with complete control and assurance, always conveying the sense of urgency in the music, always fully in control.

The overall performance was almost overwhelming in its intensity and bravura. To say that they played as one is a given, but they took it even farther; they even seemed to breath together, knowing instinctively what each other was doing, including the wide dynamic range they achieved. The dialogue between the strings and the piano was sensational.

Technically, they were dazzling, tossing off lightning fast passages and huge chords with aplomb. It has been said that they play with an artistic unity that is at once profoundly musical, yet profoundly human. I couldn't agree more.

Enthusiastic applause prompted a Debussy trio as an encore, a hauntingly beautiful and peaceful work that was a splendid end to the evening. To sum up, I paraphrase a quote: "they came, they played, they captivated"

Marvin Dickau is an organist, pianist and conductor with an A Mus from University of Alberta.