

***NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND MUSIC SCHOOL***  
***LUNCHBREAK CONCERT***  
**COWDRAY HALL, ABERDEEN**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

**Hannah Magill** Oboe  
**Shirley Magill** Piano accompanist  
**Scott Manson** Piano soloist

**PROGRAMME:**

**Tomaso Albinoni (1671 – 1751)**

Concerto for Oboe in D minor Op. 9 No.2 Movements 1 and 2

**Edvard Grieg (1843 – 1907)**

Last Spring

**Cécile Chaminade (1857 – 1944)**

Thème Varié Op.89

**Jan de Haan (b. 1951)**

Sweet Sunset

**Franz Krommer (1759 – 1831)**

Movement for Oboe and piano

**Franz Liszt (1811 – 1886)**

Jeux d’eaux à la Villa d’Este

**Ennio Morricone (1928 – 2020)**

Gabriel’s Oboe

Thursday’s Lunchbreak Concert in Aberdeen’s Cowdray Hall featuring two first class students from the North East of Scotland Music School was introduced by Colin Brockie, Manager of NESMS. His introductions were both congenial and informative. His first introduction was for oboist Hannah Magill who was to be accompanied on piano by her mother Shirley Magill. They were to perform the first two movements of the ‘Concerto in d minor Op.9 No. 2’ by Tomaso Albinoni. In this work, the piano is filling the role of string orchestra and continuo. Shirley Magill has at least as much music as the oboe soloist and with bright and lively playing she gave a fine performance. However it is the oboe soloist who needs to take the spotlight and with a performance that was superbly clean and well controlled, Hannah did just that. The first movement is fast flowing and the oboe player has to achieve that sense of uninterrupted flow which is exactly what Hannah did. Her phrasing captured the dancing

rhythmic surges of the music with contrasting legato and staccato playing. The following slow movement featured steady long-held notes, perfectly unwavering and exciting trills. Both were proof of splendid breath control. Edvard Grieg's 'Last Spring' originally for string orchestra was arranged for piano solo by the composer himself. I believe there is a song version as well. That was what emerged brilliantly from Scott Manson's piano solo version. He fairly made the melody sing out on the piano. In addition his use of rubato and varied dynamics, very well thought through, gave this music a fine song-like quality, so full of detailed variation.

'Thème Varié' by Cécile Chaminade, yes, she is a female composer, a good choice since yesterday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, was Women's Day. A theme and variations full of rippling ornamentation contrasting with strong chords had both supreme delicacy and melodic strength in Scott Manson's performance. I loved the way he brought out the melody powerfully in the left hand.

'Sweet Sunset' by Jan de Haan was originally composed for flugel horn with brass band. There was just a hint of this in the music, especially at the very end, very much a brass conclusion. However this version for oboe and piano worked splendidly well.

Colin Brockie suggested that the 'Movement for oboe and piano' by the Czech composer Franz Krommer could well have been a dramatic opera aria and that certainly came through in the performance by Shirley and Hannah. There were long-held notes for the oboe and a succession of ornamental repeated notes so well delivered by Hannah. In addition there was a fine sense of smooth fluency from the oboe in this piece.

Franz Liszt was an amazing pianist as well as a composer and his 'Jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este' was piano virtuosity personified. Scott Manson brought the water sprays of the fountains magically to life. There were also gentle harp-like chords in the left hand, a lovely singing tune (Scott is particularly good at that) and of course Liszt liked to show off so there are dramatic chords as well.

The concert finished with what Colin Brockie described as an 'ear-worm' that is to say a very infectious tune. Hannah gave us one of the most popular modern oboe melodies, 'Gabriel's Oboe' by Ennio Morricone. The audience seemed absolutely delighted with this piece. Dare I say that Morricone's music is better than the film he composed it for? Hannah certainly sold it to us at full value.

**ALAN COOPER**