

Lunchtime Recital 6th March – Vanessa Brookes-White and Charis Morgan



This was Vanessa's third recital for us (*previously with Tom Jesty on piano*) but this time she'd partnered with Charis (*silent H*) who'd she'd met 2 years ago, giving us the chance to enjoy the sound of two string instruments in duet – a



new experience for many of us. And they'd selected a range of pieces for violin and viola across the range of musical genre, from classical baroque, through Jazz, to dance. They opened with a lovely piece reminiscent of

an Irish or Scottish pub music session – 'King of the Fairies and O'Carolan's Concert' that very much got us in the mood.

Folk Tunes: King of the Fairies and O'Carolan's Concert
J.S Bach - 3 Duets after Two-part Inventions, S.772-786
Sibelius - Duo in C Major for Violin and Viola
Mozart - Duo No2 in B flat, KV 424 II. Andante Cantabile
Benedikt Bruyden - Bebop for Beagles
I. Hoover's Holiday
II. Cookies in Space
IV. Roosevelt's Sun Shower
V. Flea Control: Mission Impossible
Carlos Gardel - Tango - arranged by Diego Collatti
1. Melodía de arrabal
2. Por una cabeza
Halvorsen - Sarabande con Variazioni

And as in any successful partnership, the main melody and the 'leadership' passed seamlessly between the two of



them – lots of eye contact and facial expression underpinning it.

For me, listening to string instruments is a particular pleasure. Violin and viola, similar but subtly different, make an especially attractive coupling. A great session for all of us.

Vanessa told us that a violin is light and easy to hold between shoulder and chin. The viola is heavier and requires more physical effort to play (*we were in a conversation on why Charis appeared to smile less*). Perhaps this

explains their different pre-recital preparations; Vanessa focussed on hydration, Charis more into 'warm-up' exercises.



We very much hope we'll see them again in 2027.

