

europa

Spring 2011 Newsletter



SOUTHBANK DEBUT

The highlight of Orchestra Europa's concert schedule was its recent debut at London's Southbank Centre, performing music by Smetana, Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev under the direction of Artistic Director Scott Ellaway and with pianist sensation Alexander Melnikov. Working once more with the Britten Sinfonia, a partnership initiated when Orchestra Europa collaborated with Marin Alsop's Bernstein project, the concert was a roaring success receiving the following, glowing review from Geoff Brown of The Times:

'What do you expect from an orchestra of musicians in their early twenties? The aspects of youth, I'd say: hope and joy; passion, excitement; even reckless abandon. The British-based Orchestra Europa, founded four years ago to bridge the gap between the college years and the start of a professional career with concerts and further training, offers all these accoutrements and more.'

At 27, its conductor and instigator Scott Ellaway is not hugely older than those at the other end of his little baton — first seen swirling round in Smetana's Bartered Bride overture. At the moment unusual programming isn't the organisation's forte: the bill continued with Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto and the usual swag bag from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet ballet. Yet there was nothing dutiful in the way these gifted musicians from Britain's music colleges bent to their task. The sound was bright, well balanced and definitely hot-blooded.'

WEB UPDATES

Check out www.orchestraeuropa.org for regular updates on Orchestra Europa and its work. Recent features include reviews from The Times; articles from Music Teacher Magazine and Gramophone Magazine; and podcasts from Classic FM.

EDUCATIONAL ROUNDUP



Orchestra Europa's outreach work has continued to flourish with our partnership with ARK and the King Solomon Academy under the banner of Europa Juniors. The scheme is currently developing and delivering a regular educational programme for use in schools which will eventually expand into a 14-year curriculum. OE Musicians attended the KSA regularly throughout the academic year, delivering over 60 outreach sessions, and the children also visited LSO St Luke's, giving them the opportunity to see the orchestra in action. Europa Juniors has also been featured in a number of national and international publications including Gramophone Magazine, Music Teacher Magazine, and BBC Music Magazine.

NEWS FROM THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

We are delighted to announce that James Bowman, CBE, countertenor of international acclaim, has agreed to join Orchestra Europa's Advisory Council following the orchestra's successful performance at the Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall. Born in 1941, James Bowman is one of the foremost countertenors of our age having performed across the globe in every major opera house working with some of the greatest musical figures of the twentieth century. James performed alongside Orchestra Europa at its first ever concert in Oxford in January 2008 making his membership of the Advisory Council all the more fitting.

'Last Thursday's concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall was, for me, quite electrifying. The overture to 'The Bartered Bride' took off like a rocket, and the orchestra never looked back. It was the first time Scott had conducted Tchaikovsky's 1st Piano Concerto and it came across with an exciting freshness - nothing hackneyed about this performance. These young players responded brilliantly to Scott's youthful, energetic direction.'

Vernon Ellis, longtime supporter of Orchestra Europa and member of the Advisory Council, was knighted for services to music in the New Year's Honours List. Sir Vernon, who is Chairman of English National Opera and the British Council, has been a firm supporter of young musicians throughout his life, and we would like to offer our congratulations to him.

