

Review from the newspaper NORDJYSKE

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Marvellous start of Thy Festival

THY Masterclass

Beethoven, Lorentzen, Taneyev

★★★★★◇

Till next Sunday the Thy Chamber Music Festival is playing at full speed, arranged by Thy Masterclass, who launches concerts by the book in the whole region and makes excursions to Viborg and Aalborg.

Saturday afternoon the glorious events started at the Kirsten Kjær Museum, where the beautiful John's Hall was filled to capacity. According to usual practice the musical ensembles - a mixture of outstanding experienced musicians and young new talents from the whole world - were the distinctive feature.

The experienced musicians, cellist Morten Zeuthen (Denmark) and pianist Daniel Blumenthal (Belgium) played Beethoven's "Archduke Trio" supplemented by the young violinist Alexander Sprung.

After a little hesitation in the beginning Sprung contributed convincingly to the beautiful trio work that was thoroughly prepared and performed in faultless elegance. The ideal balance between the three emerged gradually in the scherzo movement and the slow variation movement was Beethoven at his very best, beautiful melody lines above the warm harmonies of the piano.

The composer Bent Lorentzen from Aarhus will be represented at several of the concerts next week. This afternoon his "Mambo" for clarinet, cello and piano from 1962 was presented to us, uncompromising modernism that reached the audience at full range. The young American clarinetist, Julia Sarah

Bonomo, directed the musical tempest safely and with great routine.

To me, however, the third work of this afternoon was the real thing. The Russian composer, Sergei Taneyev, is almost unknown in this part of the world, but his late romantic piano quartet in E major from 1906 is a magnificent work, that was splendidly performed by Blumenthal, Zeuthen, Sprung and the young English violist, Luke Turrell.

The first movement with its many changes in dynamics and expression was brilliantly performed, and this also applies to the adagio movement with an expression and a character situated somewhere between Tjajkovskij and Mahler. And in the grandiose last movement Blumenthal's precise piano play provided a steady foundation for the three string players' polyphonic melody lines. The unity in execution was intense and flawless all the way to the surprising final, where the music slowly died away into nothingness. Everything just formed a synthesis: a fantastic composer, an incredibly grand piece of music and a brilliant performance.

This concert will be repeated on Tuesday evening at the Musikværket in Nykøbing Mors, and there will be lots of concerts throughout the week in the whole region. Once again we enjoy Orla Vinther's model program booklet commenting concerts, composers and works, a bulky work of 52 pages that can also be viewed on the festival's website (www.thychambermusicfestival.dk).