

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, St Andrew's In The Square, Glasgow

30 Oct 2012

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Leaving the pit to take centre stage, the Orchestra of Scottish Opera return to St Andrew's in the Square for their annual series of concerts.

Stepping away from operatic repertoire, these fine players performed works by Mozart, Schubert, Tchaikovsky and Haydn.

Opening the concert with Tchaikovsky's fourth orchestral suite, the orchestra played with a tremendous depth of character and an engaging sound, drawing the audience in from the outset. Known as Mozartiana, this suite is made up of four of Tchaikovsky's own orchestrations; three piano pieces by Mozart, finishing with Tchaikovsky's interpretation of an aria from Gluck's *The Pilgrims of Mecca*. Performed with the precision and clarity the music of Mozart demands, mingled with Tchaikovsky's rich, warm tones, the orchestra seamlessly wove the many moods of the suite, through sonorous strings and ebullient woodwind passages.



Bringing a small dose of music from the operatic stage, the orchestra was joined by mezzo-soprano Louise Collett, a Scottish Opera emerging artist in 2009-10. With a rich voice, she sang the aria Torno di Tito a lato from Mozart's La Clemenzo di Tito in an emotionally convincing manner.

Playing Schubert's sixth symphony in the second half, the orchestra demonstrated its prowess, performing with animation under the baton of music director Francesco Corti, who sculpted the music with passion and vigour, casting a different light on each movement in Schubert's score. The musical interaction between sections was, for the most part, sensitive towards each other and to the music, although at times the string section overshadowed the woodwind.

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