

September 29, 2010

Talented Trio Make Beautiful Music Together

By Marilyn Reesor - Special to the Examiner, Colours of Music - REVIEW

Audience members enjoyed a leisurely stroll “Down Memory Lane” with many a twist and turn on Sunday evening during a highly diverse Colours of Music concert program which encompassed beloved works ranging in era from J.S. Bach and Widor to Gershwin and Benny Goodman.

The talented trio of musicians, Monica Whicher, soprano, Peter Stoll, clarinet and alto saxophone, and William O'Meara, piano and organ, touched on both the sacred and the secular, deliberately drawing on repertoire that tugged the heart strings and inspired a sense of nostalgia.

Indeed, there were many moments an audible sigh could be heard, the audience collectively relaxing into the pews of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Barrie as yet another favourite tune rose, sometimes surprisingly, above an ingenious and intricate arrangement executed with flawless grace.

Whicher displayed a plethora of style and exceptional vocal technique throughout. O'Meara provided gentle and consistent support from the piano, and added a splash of organ repertoire such as Widor's famous *Toccata*, from *Symphony No. 5* which is an exercise in technical stamina.

Peter Stoll, an outstanding and dynamic clarinetist and saxophonist thrilled the audience with his virtuoso technique and flair, particularly during his performance of the *Theme and Variations*, *The Carnival of Venice*, when one could imagine hearing not one, but two clarinets at the same time. The standing ovation received was well earned.

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