

# Music at St Andrew's Concert Review

## Calvert Turner Duo Saturday 13 March 2010

The Calvert Turner Duo form an unusual ensemble producing a unique variety of sound. They played two works originally written for cello and harp and it is interesting to see how this combination blends in the other parts of the programme.

The opening adagio of the *Bach Gamba Sonata* set the scene with clear matching tones between the two instruments. The continuo obviously gave more resonance on the harp than the customary harpsichord – more noticeable in the quicker passages of the allegro.

The three studies by John Metcalf embraced the fusion of harp and cello – there was effective use of the extreme ranges of both instruments – the cello led the warm mood in the second study and the imitation in the third did justice to the full sounds on both instruments.

The contrasting Saint Saëns pieces worked particularly well in this combination.

The Frankel *Hebrew Sonata* incorporated some very intense and insistent cello playing with the descending glissando moments being reminiscent – despite himself – of Bloch. The rich chording in the improvisatory second movement was well projected and the exemplary ensemble in the final movement led to an exciting conclusion of the first part of the concert.



De Falla's *Suite Populaire Espagnol* was fascinating with the accompaniment taking on the role of a guitar and the cello declaiming the long phrases in the songs with a pleasing reflective quality.

Mozart was represented with refreshing and stylish arrangements of two movements from *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*.

Ravi Shankar's *Sonata* was a clever revelation understandable to our

Western ears of the use and development of the 'raga' – the slithered chromatic passages and use of sudden silences were always dramatic in effect. The gathering air of urgency in the melody and rhythm made up in some ways for the lack of changing melodies and the pace increased with both players racing about their instruments very effectively.

From India to Argentina and the Tango by Piazzolla. Technical wizardry in abundance here with stunning glissandi and plenty of musical fireworks – a musical struggle between the two instruments which was well overcome by both players.

A balanced and enjoyable recital – these talented players should go far.

*Margaret Phillips*