

New season begins in 'remarkable' style



The first Lunchtime Concert of the 2014 Winter/Spring series at St George's United Reformed Church featured two young professionals, flautist Lucy Driver and classical guitarist Maria Camahort.

Both graduated with Masters from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. They have achieved success in both national and international circles. Plans are being finalised for them to feature in major concert halls in France during the next two years. They perform regularly around the UK and their repertoire ranges from Baroque, Classical and Folk to new compositions.

The programme was varied, with some classical, but heavily weighted towards traditional Spanish folk and dance. Bach's Sonata in E major and Mozart's Andante in C set the tone with delightful playing and superb interplay. Every note was distinct and the melodies were a delight. The remaining compositions were mainly Spanish in flavour. Outstanding was the performance of Seis Canciones Populares Espanolas.

Four Spanish folk songs from different regions varied in content and tempo. The first showed the classical guitar at its best, with broad moving chords and the flute providing the style of a flamenco above. The second was slow and contrasted vividly with the jerky rhythm of the third. The fourth was a rousing climax. Of the others, Madrigal by Gaubert, Danza Oriental by Granados and Songs and Dances by Mompou stand out. The performance was outstanding, particularly in the latter where after a slow, dramatic opening by the guitar, the flute launches into a beautiful melody, with the guitar increasingly prominent in the build up to the finale.

The concert was a rousing success, with both performers totally at ease in teamwork and artistry. Playing was of the highest standard, with difficult compositions made to appear easy. What was even more remarkable was the concert was played totally by memory, not a sheet of music in sight. A large audience warmly applauded two extremely talented young musicians. Lucy and Maria were outstanding. The second concert of the series is on Wednesday, February 12 and sees a return visit by King Edward VI Chamber Choir.

B..C..P..