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BORIS FEINER: An appreciation (April 7th 2006)

There took place on the evening of 31st March last an astonishing piano recital at the Powis Hall, University of Wales, Bangor. I say “astonishing” because the audience gave the strongest possible evidence of being overwhelmed, not to say astounded, by the performance of the twenty-five year old Boris Feiner.

Originally from Ukraine and now internationally celebrated throughout Europe, South America and the USA, he was brought to Bangor by the University Music Department, generously supported by the Art Fund, North West Wales (largely inspired by David Jeffreys, who first introduced Boris Feiner to North Wales, when he gave a recital at Plas Glyn-y-Weddw in 2005).

He is also a budding composer. His Toccata Op.1 was played at the recital and impressed us all with its lucidity and excellence of form. Compared with his rendering of the three movements of Mozart’s B-flat Major Sonata, K.333, though it was obviously influenced by the Master’s work, it was, of course, a comparatively modest piece. There can be no doubt that he is an up and coming composer of piano works of the first water.

He started the recital with a charming, sensitive interpretation of Bach’s “Sheep may safely graze”. He then began to show that he is a virtuoso of the highest calibre by delighting us with a Domenico Scarlatti Sonata; but I must not go on in detail through this wonderful programme, except to say that with Schubert’s A Minor Sonata, D.784, added to the Mozart, it was proved that Feiner is not by any means just a virtuoso. His sentient performance of both proved that to our happy satisfaction.

However, the stunning execution of the Prokofiev Sonata No. 6, op.82 with which the recital ended proved that Boris Feiner is also equal to the greatest of virtuoso players of all time.

To again show that his sensitivity is proportionate to or perhaps even greater than his virtuosity he gave us an encore of an example of Tchaikovsky’s most pleasing and gentle work.

None of the audience will ever forget this extraordinarily brilliant experience.

**The Marquess of Anglesey,
DL, FSA, FRSL, Hon. D. Litt
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