

MUSIC ON SUNDAYS, CHRIST CHURCH, CHICHESTER

27 MARCH 2011

**PETCHOV PIANO QUARTET**

**(Terence Allbright, piano ; Christopher Darwin, violin  
Paul Manderson, viola ; Raymond Greenlees, cello)**

*Mozart*        *Quartet in G minor, K.478*  
*Faure*         *Quartet No.1 in C minor, Op.15*  
*Brahms*       *Quartet No.2 in A, Op.26*

There was stamina as well as musical excellence on show today, as the Petchov Piano Quartet gave enjoyable performances of three full-length works. After an appropriately stern beginning, they managed the sudden changes of mood in Mozart's first movement most effectively, and the rondo finale was suitably gay (to reclaim an appropriated word).

The Faure and Brahms are romantic quartets by two evidently ardent young men, but they occupy very different sound-worlds. The former has been called the loveliest of piano quartets, with its memorable tunes and attractive harmonies, which are lighter than Brahms' even during the passionate opening allegro. The Petchov realised its Gallic style very well, relishing the playfulness of the scherzo and giving the climax of the agitated finale with all the requisite passion.

All four players reflected the enthusiasm for the Brahms quartet expressed by Christopher Darwin in his spoken introduction. This is the biggest of the quartets in every way, and it received an admirably committed performance. The changing emotions of the adagio - tender musings and deep stirrings giving way to sudden outbursts - were particularly well characterized, and the scherzo's difficult opening unison typified the excellent techniques on show throughout the recital.

Congratulations to all four players on successfully negotiating a long, demanding programme!

*Phil Jenkins*