

A Selection of FEEDBACK COMMENTS on
WHITTINGTON INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL
MAY 2013

Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing this superb event to Whittington! Please do it again!
John Abram, High Sheriff of Shropshire

After the final concert I couldn't digest the magnitude of the experience. For the serious listener exposed to the combination of intensity and quality, I do not think the term 'life-changing' is inappropriate. Prof Ian Stanley

I loved the whole thing - great atmosphere, fantastic players, good audience and great music. As a player with 39 years' experience, it has rarely felt as good as it did in the other night's concert. I do hope I can come back one day. David Campbell, guest clarinettist

Where to begin? In the Twitter Age superlatives have pretty well lost their impact, but the Whittington Festival really *was* a fantastic achievement and Leondari really *were* utterly superb. Neither was it just for grown-ups. The contrast between the intense concentration on the faces of the children on the last night, the encouragement on the faces of the ensemble players, and the applause from the audience all speaks volume. Dr Mike Ingle

Superb music, very helpful programme notes, organisation very good. Prof Lalage Bown

We came up from Greenwich, but were able to come to only the last three concerts. The journey was spectacularly well worthwhile. We thought the playing was marvellous, the interaction and eye contact between the players a joy to watch, and the acoustic splendid. Tony and Rosemary Butler, London

I thought the festival was outstanding- the musicians were high class and the evening I attended was quite simply a real treat. The performance with the young people of Whittington stole my heart. It is not every day the young people receive this opportunity and I take my hat off to those who made this happen with much dedication and hard work. From a tourism perspective this was a special event and one that I think we should definitely strive for again. Corrie Davies, Community Action Officer, Shropshire Council

I was impressed by the inclusion of local children in yesterday's concert, and the way in which the musicians shared roles in the two sextets, which typified the inclusive nature of the Festival. The Trio No1 on Sunday was outstanding for its energy and lyricism. I am only sorry that I could not attend more than three concerts, and I look forward to the next Festival. Rob Greaves

I really enjoyed the concert I went to at Whittington. There was a good atmosphere, easy parking and wonderful music. I hope the Festival is a success in future years. Margaret Clennett, Chair Llanfyllin Music Festival

It was an enormous success. The organisation was first class and there were no hitches that I saw or heard about. Above all, the standard of all the musicians was superb. I thought they would be good, but I didn't know they would be THAT good! Paul Astell, Oswestry Recorded Music Society

The quality of the performance far exceeded expectations – simply excellent. It was easy to get there, easy to park, great pub for lunch, excellent daily programme notes and lovely atmosphere – really well done. Philip Hanson, Warwickshire

I've loved every second of it. Brilliant! Jennifer Conway (attended all nine concerts)

Absolutely brilliant to have world-class chamber music on the doorstep!! The playing was just stunning, you've raised the bar. I can't wait for next year. Ursula Neil

My wife and I initially saw the banner on the church and decided to attend the first Wednesday concert. We enjoyed the whole experience so much that we returned the next Wednesday. Both evenings provided an opportunity to hear quality music by talented musicians in an extremely agreeable setting. The programmes were well selected and the atmosphere was most welcoming. We certainly hope that a Festival might be organized for next year. Philip Wood, Head of Sixth Form, Ellesmere College

I also saw them at Oswestry U3A & thought they were brilliant there too! Helen Shackell

Even though he's amongst my favourite composers, I didn't know how well I - or many other people - would cope with so much undiluted Brahms; but it was great. What a good call on somebody's part! John Ambrose, Staffordshire University

Such a great acoustic in Whittington Church. It's doubtful I'll be able to make it south next year, but I'll keep an eye on your website and who knows... ! James Munro, Inverness (!)

A fantastic opportunity to bring together the community. Also a great idea to involve children. Sean Sibley, Head Teacher, Whittington Primary School

We thoroughly enjoyed it all and many friends I have spoken to shared our view that the idea was a brilliant one and that the quality of musicianship was incredibly high. So congratulations to all concerned. As chair of governors of Woodside Primary School in Oswestry, if you are seeking additional schools to work with next year, we would be very interested in being involved. Alan Cooper, Chair of Governors, Woodside School

As a Shropshire Councillor, I speak with lots of members of the public from many different backgrounds. The feedback on the Festival has been tremendous; everyone I have spoken to enjoyed it thoroughly and appears to have attended more than one concert. It is also really nice to see engagement between classical music and the young people from the school and village, especially the opportunity given them to play alongside some of the world's leading musicians. It promises well for the future. Steve Charmley, County Councillor

Keep up the good work. Chris Moore-Bridger, Radio 4 Counterpoint contender

I gained the impression that the musicians not only played for the audience, but also for one another, creating a really friendly atmosphere in which to listen. Christine Roberts

A feast of glorious music – highly addictive. Joanna Walker

The series was absolutely phenomenal – outstanding! I enjoyed every minute, and look forward to next year with great anticipation. Dawn Jaffray, Director Oswestry Choral Society

The concept of the programme was brilliant: uncompromisingly excellent. Please don't dumb down – it will not attract a bigger audience. Rosemary Brown

I attended the last concert: it was amazing to say the least. The musicians were out of this world: very interactive with the audience. We need them to come back please. Sybil Williamson, Rock Festival enthusiast