

Young horn virtuoso in concert with Winchester Music Club

The audience at St Swithun's School Performing Arts Centre witnessed a young star in the making when Ben Goldscheider, a brass finalist in the current BBC Young Musician of the Year, took to the stage to perform the first horn concerto of Richard Strauss with Winchester Music Club orchestra. Principal horn of the National Youth Orchestra and already freelancing with the top London orchestras, this eighteen-year old musician held our attention right from the bold, heroic opening flourish of this concerto through to the virtuosic demands of the finale. In the lyrical slow movement his burnished golden tone gleamed above the orchestra which provided finely-honed support. Winchester Music Club should be congratulated for promoting such young talent.

The Music Club Choir were joined in the second half of the concert by tenor David Butt Philip and bass Benjamin Bevan for Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*. This youthful work provides glimpses of the mature opera composer and the choir relished the melodic writing, revelling in the big tunes as well as the more tender moments. The tenor soloist in the *et incarnatus* was suitably operatic with a fine Italianate tone while the bass produced a rich and powerful sonority. Puccini's big choral climaxes blazed with enthusiasm and energy, a tribute to the inspiring direction of David Thomas, who is definitely putting his stamp on the quality of music making. As ever, the Music Club Orchestra were on fine form, with some lovely woodwind playing in the Mendelssohn overture to 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', making a magical prelude to the concert.

Duncan Eves