

# Classical music

**PHILIP R BUTTALL**



# Katherine's Daydream

**W**HEN the Welsh crossover mezzo-soprano Katherine Jenkins began her UK Tour in Oxford earlier this month, she needed a little comforting from her conductor after her first number as she had only just broken up with former fiancé, Gethin Jones.

But ever the true professional, she went on to give another fine performance for her sell-out audience, and returns to Plymouth Pavilions on Tuesday, February 7 at 7.30pm.

Coinciding with the release of her latest album, Daydream, at the end of 2011, the tour features tracks from the CD which is her most personal to date, drawing together music and songs she loves, across a broad spectrum from classical, traditional, folk and easy pop, all of which have so far inspired her over the course of her 31 years.

Favourite tracks include a deeply-moving

interpretation of the Celtic classic, Black Is the Colour, and I Dreamed a Dream from Les Misérables, sung here in French.

A brand new version of Ave Maria, and the Neath-born singer's own stirring tribute to service men and women through the ages, A Flower Tells a Story, are also included.

The Daydream tour will also see Katherine perform some of the best-known numbers from her last seven albums, including some from her debut CD, right through to her best-selling Believe.

Katherine said: "I had an amazing time on my first arena-tour, but Daydream is a very intimate album and I wanted my tour to reflect that.

"It's a chance for my fans to see me up close and personal in some of the UK's most attractive venues."

While the Plymouth date is a virtual sell-out, it's always worth contacting the box office for any ticket returns (0845 146 1460).



## Pastoral works at St John's

THIS Sunday, at St John's Church, Bridgetown, Totnes, the Pressenda Ensemble presents an afternoon programme of pastoral works at 3pm.

The ensemble takes its name from the Turin violin-maker, an example of which is played by its director, Malcolm Latchem.

Opening with Corelli's Christmas Concerto, the recital includes Elgar's Sospiri, Idylle, and Salut d'Amour, Rossini's early string sonata in G, Mendelssohn's equally precocious String Symphony No 10, and Pastoral and Allegro, by Plymouth-born, Clive Jenkins.

Tickets (£12 / £10 concessions / children free) are available in advance from Totnes Tourist Information, or from Divertimento (01803 863677), and at the door.

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## A welcome sense of déjà vu

WHILE Peninsula Arts never intended its Chamber Music Series to be a carbon copy of its predecessor, there was certainly something more than just déjà vu when the Atrium String Quartet returned to the city after almost eight years.

Again here was superb playing from a top international ensemble, and a challenging, yet totally satisfying programme, which delighted the larger-than-usual audience, clearly attracted by the potential on offer.

If Yuri Falik's Eighth Quartet might have provided a slightly more effective opener than Shostakovich's Seventh, there was no question that both performances were of the highest order, enhanced by each player's abundantly rich tone, and the unmatched ensemble precision and dynamic balance.

Arensky's A minor Quartet further emphasised these qualities, though now imbued with the more overt sense of feeling this quintessentially romantic work demands.

But arguably the evening's highlight was an

### REVIEW Philip R Buttall

**ATRIUM STRING QUARTET**  
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One performance only

outstanding reading of Schubert's G major Quartet, where all four instrumentalists combined to produce a reading of immense maturity, and where the vital and deceptively simple emotional balance between light and dark was so impeccably maintained, in a performance of impressive rhythmic accuracy.

Despite an early-morning start from the continent, and an already generous programme, to give the finale from Shostakovich's First Quartet as an encore seemed a genuine gesture from an ensemble that came to delight and entertain, rather than merely to play.

## Return of the West Devon Choral

IF YOU'RE a fan of West Devon Choral, the good news is that the 30-strong ensemble opens its 2012 account this Saturday.

The bad news, however, is that, as a result of the singers' increasing popularity, they are now singing further afield, in this case St Mary's Church, Ottery St Mary at 7.30pm.

But if you happen to be in the area you'll be able to enjoy vocal, instrumental and organ works by Bach, contrasted by motets by Anton Bruckner.

Michael Johnson conducts, with Christopher Moore (organ). Soloists are young brother and sister violin-duo, Hannah and Joel Munday. Tickets (£10 / £8 in advance / £3 students & children) and further details are available from 01752 776479.

## Kelly College Concert Society

THE next slot in the Kelly College Concert Society Series features Peter Fisher (violin) and Peter Hewitt (piano) at the Melvin Hall on Wednesday, February 8 at 7.45pm.

Given by way of a tribute to the 50th Fritz Kreisler Anniversary, the programme features Schubert's A major, and Grieg's C minor Sonatas, pieces by turn-of-the-century violinist Alfredo D'Ambrosio as well as some of Kreisler's popular numbers.

Tickets (£10 / £8 concessions / accompanied under 18s free) are available at the door. There is ample free parking, disabled access, and complimentary coffee is served during the interval.

There's a further opportunity to catch up with the duo when they play in the 19th International Concert Series in Plymouth's Sherwell United Church on Thursday, February 16 at 1pm, where the Grieg Sonata will be the main work.

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