

Los Angeles Philharmonic Wind Quintet uses full palette of colours

The Los Angeles Philharmonic Wind Quintet delivered a delightful afternoon full of colour and joie de vivre.

Stephen Whittington, The Advertiser

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Los Angeles Philharmonic Wind Quintet. Picture: Supplied

Compared to seemingly ubiquitous string quartets, wind quintets are about as rare as chook's dentures.

It's a shame, because it's an ensemble that offers its own unique pleasures.

Four stringed instruments are different shades of the same colour, but a wind quintet is a riot of different hues – it's central Europe, bluish greys and high seriousness, versus the Mediterranean, vivid blue, red and orange.

In the hands of superb players like the Los Angeles Philharmonic Wind Quintet the five distinctive sounds of flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon united in music of sensuous beauty, humour and joie de vivre without sacrificing their individuality.

This concert had particular interest for two reasons. One is the horn player, Andrew Bain, Adelaide born-and bred, now principal horn with the LA Philharmonic Orchestra, possibly the best orchestra in North America.



Los Angeles Philharmonic Wind Quintet. Picture: Supplied

The other reason was a very well-chosen program. Apart from a nod to the past with a quintet by Paul Taffanel, the music was firmly in the 20th century.

Ibert's three pieces were witty neoclassical evocations of French popular music. A highlight was Ligeti's *Six Bagatelles*, deceptively simple pieces demanding players of exceptional skill to have their fullest effect.

Samuel Barber's *Summer Music*, a lovely arrangement of Ravel, and Paul Hindemith's suite of *Kleine Kammermusik* were performed superbly, by Denis Bouriakov (flute), Ricardo Barbosa (oboe), Boris Allakherdyan (clarinet), Whitney Crockett (bassoon) and Andrew Bain.

A clever arrangement of *Maria* from *West Side Story* was a perfect end to a delightful afternoon of wind music.

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