

Serbian-French virtuoso Radulovic looks and plays the part

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Rodney Smith, The Advertiser
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Ensemble Liaison.

As you would expect from a program of music with folk and gypsy ambience there was more than a touch of showmanship on display throughout the afternoon.

Serbian-French virtuoso violinist Nemanja Radulovic not only looks the part but plays to it as well, often with extravagant gestures and always with immense charm.

Ensemble Liaison makes a point of accommodating their invited guest and Radulovic certainly brought out some of their latent wild side in all the afternoon's interpretations.

Unsurprisingly Khachaturian's evocatively romantic and folk-inspired *Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano* was the program's chief beneficiary, its swooning melodies and purple harmonies positively glowing in the hands of Radulovic, clarinetist David Griffiths and pianist Timothy Young.



Serbian French violinist Nemanja Radulovic. Picture: Charlotte Abramow.

Bartok's *Romanian Folk Dances*, with cellist Svetlana Bogosavljevic added to the mix, was also given a highly technicoloured performance.

It was therefore with nervous anticipation that Brahms' magnificent *Piano Quartet in G Minor* was awaited after interval.

Fears were not allayed when the arrangement with clarinet taking the viola part immediately projected a sonic balance that seemed oddly out of kilter, lacking essential weight in the middle.

It goes without saying that the carnival atmosphere of Brahms' famous *Gypsy Rondo* finale was pumped up beyond anything he might have imagined and listeners were continually surprised by the altered musical sonics of the three preceding movements.

Its first interpreter Clara Schumann probably wouldn't have approved but perhaps old Brahms himself might have enjoyed the shenanigans.

Nemanja Radulovic with Ensemble Liaison

UKARIA Cultural Centre

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