

CHARMING PROGRAM OF LESSER-KNOWN WORKS FOR WINDS AND STRINGS



UKARIA mounted a program of excellent works for Adelaide-based Australian String Quartet and Melbourne-based Arcadia Winds.

Melanie Walters, *The Advertiser*
Subscriber only | September 16, 2019 6:14pm

The Australian String Quartet joined forces with the Melbourne-based Arcadia Winds for a charming program of lesser-known but excellent works for winds and strings at UKARIA.

The *Nonetto* by Bohuslav Martinů is in the composer's characteristically cheerful style, with plenty of his signature jaunty cross-rhythms.

Martinů is also known for his idiomatic writing for woodwinds – his most popular works are perhaps his oboe concerto and the first flute sonata – and his *Nonetto* is no exception, with attractive melodies shared between flute, oboe, and clarinet.



The second movement features a couple of melancholic bassoon solos, which Matthew Kneale played with a beautiful legato tone and expressive nuances. Next in the program was Benjamin Britten *Sinfonietta* – one of the composer's earliest compositions, in its original 1932 version for winds and strings. The ensemble effectively captured the agitato character of the first movement, with an impressively controlled accelerando.

The melodic fragments of the second movement were passed seamlessly through the ensemble with impeccable intonation and blending, and the final *Tarantella* had plenty of rhythmic drive and virtuosic playing from all musicians.

The concert concluded with Jean Françaix's *Dixtuor* from 1987, which shifted between elegant lyricism and gentle playfulness throughout much of the work. The joking nature of the *Scherzando* was created through liberal use of offbeat accents against a waltz-like accompaniment, which the ensemble played with clear articulation and excellent balance.

Mornings with the ASQ: Australian String Quartet with Arcadia Winds

UKARIA Cultural Centre

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