

GUIDING HEADS AND HANDS NEVER LOST CONTROL



Rodney Smith, *The Advertiser*

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ALONGSIDE their international solo careers, Tasmin Little and Piers Lane have a considerable following as a violin and piano duo through concerts and recordings together.

Consequently many in UKARIA's audience were excited at the intriguing prospect of hearing how these artists would sound in Adelaide's best new chamber music venue.

We were not disappointed.

Their long acquaintance and mutual empathy ensured the entire program was beautifully finessed while still transcending boundaries to get at the emotional heart of their music.

The evening was book ended by two of the repertoire's most substantial compositions, Karol Szymanowski's big-scale but early *Sonata Op. 9 in D minor* and César Franck's much loved *Sonata in A*.

To their credit both performers ensured that it was all about the music despite their high-octane techniques and personalities tending to rivet listeners' attention.

The Szymanowski's explosive, brooding 1st movement, lyrical 2nd movement and incredibly volcanic final movement, were brought to order in an intensely focused interpretation that lost none of its excitement by maintaining its equilibrium.

Likewise, the Franck gained immense clarity and balance, elements often missing, through a wonderfully energised, richly textured interpretation that nevertheless seemed light enough to float to UKARIA's elegant ceiling.

Occasionally hair did get let down, as in Elena Kats-Chernin's outrageously schmaltzy *Russian Rag Revisited*, but Little's and Lane's guiding heads and hands never lost control and our enjoyment was all the greater for it.

Tasmin Little and Piers Lane

UKARIA Cultural Centre

October 20