

MOST DISTINGUISHED SINGER OF RECENT DECADES IN INTIMATE RECITAL



Stephen Whittington, *The Advertiser*
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THIS was a rare opportunity to hear one of the most distinguished singers of recent decades in an intimate recital.

While Dawn Upshaw's presence has given rise to an impressive list of new works written especially for her unique talents, this fascinating recital steered clear of challenging contemporary repertoire.

Book ended by Stephen Foster and George Gershwin, it included rarely heard songs by obscure composers such as Charles Loeffler and Rebecca Clarke.

Much of it was devoted to the rare ensemble of voice, viola and piano.

Violist Nicole Divall and pianist Tamara-Anna Cislowska were outstanding in supporting roles.

Upshaw was born in Nashville and she retains a distinct twang in her vowels that makes her voice instantly recognisable – curious to think that she might otherwise have become a great country singer.

Musically, Debussy's *Chansons de Bilitis* were the high point of the evening, but songs by Ives, Hindemith, Brahms, Gounod and the rest were absolutely enthralling coming from an artist of Upshaw's calibre.

Even a sentimental old tune such as *Roses of Picardie* by Haydn Wood – to which it is tempting to reply no, he wouldn't – became a gem to be treasured.

Dawn Upshaw in Recital
UKARIA
December 1