

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL 2020 REVIEW: ONE AMONG MANY

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Peter Burdon, *The Advertiser*
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One Among Many

FESTIVAL – Classical Music

UK/Australia

UKARIA Cultural Centre

March 8

An extra special concert in the Chamber Landscapes series, *One Among Many* brought together three outstanding chamber musicians, Anthony Marwood (violin), Timo-Veikko Valve (cello) and Stefan Cassomenos (piano) for a really stellar 90 minutes of music making.

First up was Shostakovich's elegiac *Piano Trio No. 2 in E Minor*, a brooding, even grim work written in the long, dark shadows of World War II. The opening bars of the piece are unforgettable, all harmonics on the cello, but there is hardly a passage that was not intensely gripping.

In the second movement scherzo, the strings seem pitched against the piano, while in the third, a passacaglia, the piano is a foundation over which the violin and cello weave their magic.

The finale is hardest to characterise, but there seems no doubt that the composer was at once saddened by the horrors of death and destruction, and contemptuous of the state which had allowed it to happen.

Beethoven's "Archduke" *Piano Trio in B-flat Major* received a hugely enjoyable reading that can best be described as muscular. No fortepianos here: Cassomenos put the Bösendorfer through its paces and Marwood and Valve were well up for the challenge.

That's not to say it was inelegant – the imitative passages in the scherzo were exquisite, while the last bars of the third movement andante were imbued with such awe as won't quickly be forgotten.

But when it came to the drama, the trio was in its element, and the final pages were astounding.

The thrills weren't only musical. Leading into the final bars, Marwood had a dodgy page turn, the paper perilously close to falling the wrong way. Up came his left leg to kick the page down just as Tipi reached across with a helping hand. Magic.