

Arts & Entertainment

A world-class musical event



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Arts Focus

Is it necessary to drive into Vancouver to see world-class concert artists?

The answer is a resounding no, judging by the October 24 **White Rock Concerts'** presentation of the **European Union Chamber Orchestra** at White Rock Baptist Church.

From the first stirring notes of Mozart's *Cassation in G; K63* to a delightfully dulcet Brahms' *Lullaby* (now there's a second encore with a solid hint in it!) subscribers were aware that they were in the presence of some of Europe's finest young musicians.

The success of this touring group of many nations, led by Danish violinist **Lavard Skou Larsen**, is that it offers spir-

ited and idiomatic renditions for a wide range of music.

The crisp string work in the Mozart piece (particularly the delightful delicacy of playing over the pizzicato bass in the Andante), Haydn's Symphony No.26, and the encore of the Allegro from Haydn's Fifth Symphony — including a beautifully managed workout for the horn section — demonstrated the ensemble's highly sympathetic approach to late 18th Century music.

Moving into the Romantic era, the orchestra presented Schubert's *Rondo for violin and strings*. While the piece struck me as one of the composer's most light-weight efforts, leader Larsen's solo role was played with charm and great skill, particularly in his singing high register tones at the conclusion of the piece.

The dynamics of the string section were most favourably displayed, however in Elgar's *Serenade For Strings*, including the bite of their attack and excellently handled crescendos and decrescendos.

And the orchestra demonstrated its equally sure touch with more modern sonorities with an excellent version of

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