

## St. Michael at 6 Colin Kingsley – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Concert Review by Lewis Forbes

November's concert saw the return of distinguished Edinburgh pianist Colin Kingsley, to present a programme of 19<sup>th</sup> century Romantic piano music.

Colin quickly captivated the audience with three pieces from *Chants du voyageur* by Paderewski, particularly in the second of the three, where he managed to create an irresistible air of mystery. The third was bold and majestic, but wound down gently to a delicate flourish.

The next four pieces, a *Prelude* and *Nocturne* by Fauré and two Liszt *Consolations*, afforded Colin the opportunity to display his technical abilities. He coped admirably with the spiky, intricate figures, and the rippling harp-like textures of the Fauré, and with the Liszt, which made use of the extreme registers of the piano.

The performance continued with *Automne* by Chaminade, which started in a breezy French style, but descended into much more dark and dramatic territory, sometimes reminiscent of Saint-Saëns. The following Rossini piece began with an operatic extended melody, but broke into a surprisingly jolly middle section.

In a slight change from the advertised programme, the last three items were *Improvisation* by Chabrier, *Melancolie* by Rubenstein, and *Scherzo valse*, again by Chabrier. *Melancolie* was pitiful yet bittersweet, and finished with a fluttering coda, whereas *Scherzo valse* had a distinct Irish flavour, and brought this thoroughly entertaining concert to a rousing conclusion.