



June 2017

Lympstone Entertainments **DRUMBEAT**

essential reading for those who don't want to miss the best of What's On in Lympstone

BEETHOVEN'S QUARTET JOURNEY EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS

**“A wonderfully unusual combination of theatre and music;
exquisite playing in a beautiful setting.”**

**“A unique and fantastic artistic adventure and for those of us privileged to have
attended, it will be remembered for many years to come.”**



Oscar Perks, Krysia Osostowicz, Clare Norburn (writer), David Timson, Yuko Inoue & Richard Jenkinson

Some gambles pay off, some don't...

When, a year ago, the Dante Quartet offered to play all of Beethoven's Quartets in Lympstone, with an actor as Beethoven and a script by a playwright, they called it an outrageously bold idea. We agreed with that description, but we couldn't resist. When would we ever again receive an offer like that? In the anxious months that followed, we began to think that the correct adjective was not bold but foolhardy. It was not the money that worried us so much as the potential embarrassment, if only a few people turned up to our six concerts.

But optimism prevailed. In the event, the most ambitious performances in Lympstone Entertainments' ten year existence were a triumph. *Beethoven's Quartet Journey*, an imaginative combination of concert and dramatic monologue, came into being because (somewhat to their

surprise) we accepted the Dantes' offer. The series was featured on Radio 4's Today programme, we sold over 1,000 tickets, our audiences were thrilled, and we even made a profit. And we became friends with the wonderful musicians, actor and playwright, who were delightful, and loved discovering our village. May they often return.

Beethoven's string quartets, like such achievements as Shakespeare's tragedies, Michaelangelo's sculptures and Rembrandt's self-portraits, are amongst the great artistic contributions to western civilization. Over a couple of weekends, we have been able to hear them all played – wonderfully played, passionately played – here in our local village church. That, I think, is astonishing.

Harland Walshaw



**AND, AS PROMISED, KRYSIA'S
STOLEN VIOLIN WAS PLAYED IN
LYMPSTONE**

Photography by Nick Harries



The church was well populated for every performance, with a sell-out on the final Sunday.

The Lympstone Nursery car park was filled to capacity, and once the adjoining paddock was pressed into service. Lymptents are extremely grateful to Julie and Barry Russell for their use.

Just look at this *small selection* of the many appreciative comments flowing in this week:

This series of concerts was eye-opening, mesmerising, uplifting and addictive

A note of thanks and appreciation for yesterday's extraordinary Dante Quartet performance. A major coup for Lympstone.

We were initially dubious when we heard of their intention of incorporating an actor in the role of Beethoven ...however, we found that this was done with such sensitivity that it added to one's awareness of the life of the composer and his intentions in the score without greatly impairing our enjoyment of the music. David Timson performed the role well.

I still can't believe this incredible event took place only 2 miles from our Exmouth home. Well done The Dante Quartet, Lympstone Entertainments, Clare Norburn, the Arts Council sponsorship and of course 'Beethoven'.

What a marvellous performance it was. I've never heard the Grosse Fugue performed in its original position, so it was an even greater treat to hear it. We also thoroughly enjoyed the Beethoven commentary.

We walkers from misty West Devon encountered fellow-travellers from the Midlands, Hay-on-Wye, as well as Chagford and St Germans – a parochial East Devon affair it was not.

Amazing stuff....and huge congrats to everyone concerned.

The overall effect has been humbling: Beethoven composing such riveting beauty (in deafness), and the Dante quartet playing the quartets - all of them - so magnificently, humanely and apparently tirelessly. The concert series made a deep and lasting impression on me .

Playwright Clare Norburn and outstanding performances of actor David Timson as Beethoven, created a unique atmosphere thus vividly capturing the mind of the composer at the time of his chamber compositions.

Quite amazing – the quality of the playing superb, and the narration really made Beethoven come alive. Altogether a wonderful idea.

The standard of music was sublime & uplifting – the narration adding focus, clarification & humour. To hear all this in the surroundings of an historic village church, with the sun setting across the adjacent meadow, was the icing on the cake.

The best series of concerts I have ever been to. Fantastic playing, the script is good as is the acting.

A great treat to have such an ambitious project in the Devon countryside, well attended by musicians and music lovers from a wide area.

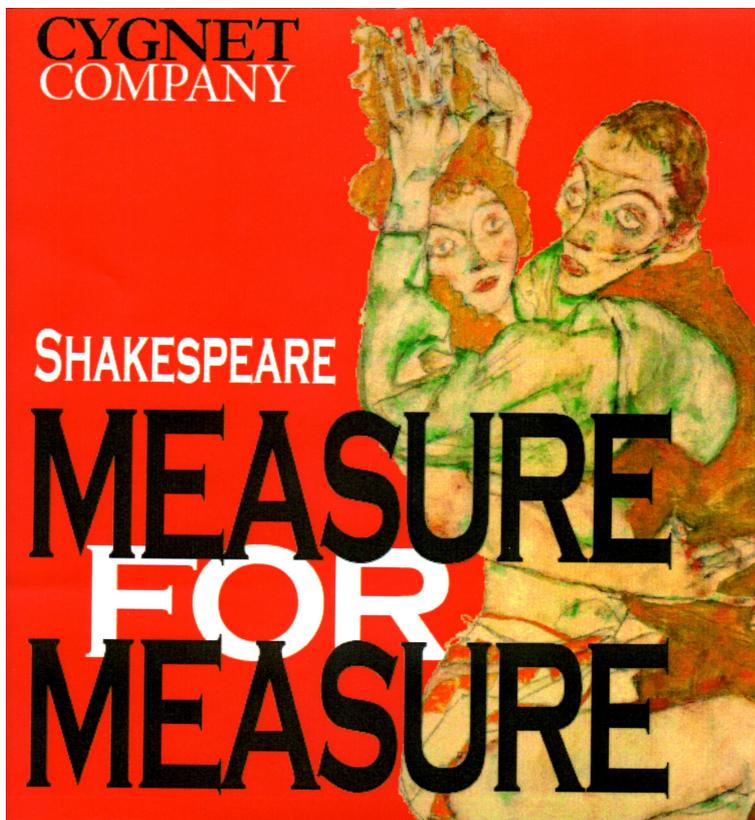
The final concert, to a packed church, was the highlight of the series for us. The works, set in the context of the composer's final few weeks, were powerfully performed. The brilliant playing of Opus 130 with its challenging original finale had the audience on its feet. Opus 135 with its enigmatic "Must it be? It must be." brought the realisation that Beethoven was reaching the end of his life - and we were reaching the end of a wonderful musical experience.

Bring your chairs and a picnic to this enchanting woodland setting for a performance of Shakespeare's

Measure for Measure

by the young players of the Cygnets Company, directed by Artistic Director Alistair Ganley.

Cygnets Theatre is passionate about Shakespeare and strives to create accessible and relevant productions which value the text and draw out the drama and themes from the plays.



In Vienna strict codes of behaviour have not been enforced by those in power for a generation and prostitution, criminality and teenage pregnancy are rife. What will it take for the authorities to regain control of the public morality and at what cost? Cygnets' new ensemble production of Shakespeare's provocative dark comedy explores the line between public and private morality, faith, duty, power and hypocrisy. Now, more than ever, a theme for today.

SATURDAY 15TH JULY Gates open at 5pm, performance starts at 6pm
The garden is located next to Underhill Car Park (EX8 5HH)
(If it's raining the play will be performed in the Parish Church)

Adult tickets £10, family tickets £30, U18s/NUS £5
from lympentsboxoffice@gmail.com or Answerphone 01395 272243