

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Lighthouse, Poole

By Mike Marsh
Thursday, 18th April 2013

Between them violin soloist Vadim Gluzman and conductor Andrew Litton took an unbuttoned view of Bruch's much-loved romantic Violin Concerto No1, producing a performance of commanding energy.

The first movement revealed a depth of intensity that was strongly characterized; driving an overarching perspective of the entire work. Quietly linking to the Adagio, Gluzman shied from saccharine seduction; negotiating the melodic line without recourse to all of its potential for sentiment, yet lit its lyricism with a touch of bravura that found full weight in the finale.

Here forceful dynamics from Litton and tunes delivered with panache by Gluzman declared a virtuosity that turned a great concerto into an orchestral masterpiece.

The revelatory performance of Korngold's Overture to a Drama showed, in hindsight, that he already had the makings for his later career in the film industry. And that at the tender age of fourteen in 1911. There is drama alternating with charming, lighter episodes and a grand finale.

Something of a novelty with Litton choosing two suites of music from operas for the second part of this live BBC Radio 3 broadcast. Three excerpts from Wagner's Die Meistersinger made a well-structured summary, beginning with the Prelude to Act 111 and running through the Dance of the Apprentices and concluding with the majestic Procession of the Mastersingers and Salute to Hans Sachs.