



A Perfect Evening with John Lill

Sunday, 7th October 2018
Memorial Hall

Where shall we start? We could perhaps begin by saying that John Lill has given over 6,000 concerts in a very long and distinguished career, or maybe (and I quote) "I'm 74 now so I'm cutting back a bit these days, and I'm only going to tour Japan, China and Australia in the next few months..."

That's an interesting take on 'cutting back'. Whichever way you look at it, John Lill remains one of the most eminent and remarkable pianists roaming the planet. The wine is vintage indeed.

His most recent recital for the Marlborough College Concert Series was enthralling, and he is clearly at home on the College's precious Steinway on which his advice was sought for it to be adjusted and prepared to suit the acoustics of the Hall. In essence then, our piano has been well and truly 'lilled'. "I've never had my name used as a verb before, but I rather like it" was his response.

To single out highlights from his programme of Beethoven, Prokofiev, Schumann and Chopin is tricky, but you would have to go a long way to find a better performance of Prokofiev's daunting Sixth Sonata in which Lill's consummate technique and total mastery shone bright.

In mentioning the acoustics of the hall as he left, he commented "it's perfect". From someone of his stature that's high praise indeed. He's pretty perfect too

Philip Dukes (Artistic Director)



BBC National Orchestra of Wales © BBC.co.uk

Orchestral consecration for the Memorial Hall

Sunday, 4th November 2018
Memorial Hall

A packed Memorial Hall witnessed a truly special concert given by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

The concert, which was not only part of the regular MCCS series, but also part of the Memorial Hall Festival 2018, was recorded for future broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Excellent national publicity indeed for our newly refurbished Mem Hall and Marlborough College.

The programme was tailored, in part, to fit the context of the occasion.

Beethoven's Overture 'The Consecration of the House' was an obvious and appropriate choice, alongside Ravel's 'Le Tombeau de Couperin' and R S Kelly's 'Elegy' (in memory of Rupert Brooke) both of which connected to the Great War and the Mem Hall's historical significance.

The highlight, however, was the performance of Beethoven's famous Triple Concerto where the soloists were the excellent Amatis Trio. With conductor Adrian Partington shaping a most sympathetic response from the orchestra this was a most memorable interpretation and one to which the audience clearly warmed.

The enhanced acoustics of the Hall were also once again put to the test and, with adjustments made to the acoustic panelling during the rehearsal in the afternoon, the BBC were able to record without superimposing any additional reverb to the sound in preparation for the broadcast. That's really good news for the future and reflects the sophistication of sound management we now have at our disposal.

In summary, so much achieved by so many for which we should all feel proud, and so much to look forward to.

Philip Dukes (Artistic Director)

Free admission (no ticket required) to the annual Christmas concert given by Marlborough College Symphony Orchestra

**Memorial Hall Concert
Sunday, 2nd December at
7:30pm. Doors open 6:45pm**

Performance to include Sabre Dance (Khachaturian) and Finlandia (Sibelius). Plus music by Josef Suk and Georgy Sviridov performed by the College String Chamber Orchestra.



John Lill