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## Marchwood Orchestra at St Winfrid's

THE capacity and enthusiastic audience at Marchwood Orchestras concert at St Winfrid's Church, Totton, in aid of church funds, enjoyed a wide range of works from home-grown chorale to Mendelssohn - in addition to cream teas during the interval.

The programme commenced with former Marchwood Orchestras musical director Peter Alan Robson's *Chorale Prelude: St Anne*. The original tune was used for the well-known hymn *O God Our Help in Ages Past*; however, Peter's multiple and, at times, quite complex variations were passed around the various sections of the orchestra like a musical merry-go-round finishing with a final flourish including the whole orchestra.

Next came two popular *Slavonic Dances* (No. 10 in E minor and No. 8). They were played with feeling and panache under the baton of conductor Simon Wilkins and evoked images of Fritz Kresler in 'fin de siècle' Viennese coffee houses.

The first half concluded with Johann Strauss the younger's *Kaiserwalzer (Emperor Waltz)* and successfully captured the flavour of royal courts in 19th century Europe.

The second half of the concert started with *Elizabethan Serenade* by Ronald Binge (of *Sailing By* fame). This lovely lilting ever-popular melody was given a deft, light touch by the orchestra and gave little indication of what was to follow as the main work of the programme.

Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 5* was a loud blaring introduction by the brass and woodwind until the barely audible few bars of the *Dresden Amen*. The fast melodic



were interspersed.

The second movement comprised many fast runs which the orchestra tackled with relish. The following *Andante* was played with great control and sensitivity

and led directly into the fourth and final movement which is introduced with a flute playing the chorale *My God is a True Fortress*. The pace quickened once again with the orchestra bringing

the piece and the concert as a whole to a triumphant climax. The orchestra threw themselves into the symphony and delivered a magnificent performance.

It was good to see the orchestra

patron and local MP Dr Julian Lewis among the audience at this particularly busy time and was very much appreciated.

The next concert is on October 15th at St. Thomas's Church,

Lymington when Marchwood Orchestras will be playing with St Nicholas Singers. Details available on line [marchwoodorchestras.org.uk](http://marchwoodorchestras.org.uk)