



From the Basingstoke Gazette...

Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra Scores a Success

Emmanuel Despax has a rare combination of dexterous precision and raw emotion. He commanded an absolutely stunning performance of Grieg's piano concerto. Grieg does not make the pianist's job easy; in parts orchestrating a battle between the orchestra and piano – yet we always felt that the young Frenchman won through using the concert grand to amazing effect. The more delicate parts of the piece were handled with superb poise and maturity. All in all a spell-binding performance of Grieg's popular piece.

So with the full-time whistle blown, the audience had a very enjoyable evening. The varied accessible programme provided something for everyone. We were also privileged to witness what must be a rising star, in Emmanuel Despax.

Simon Haynes.