

Evening Standard 23/8/03

Superb pianist is one of the greats

Sonja Radojkovic, pianist. Passionately Piano Recital Series. Regent On Broadway. August 22.

REVIEW

LAST night's solo piano programme of Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Prokofiev and Tadjewicz proved to be one of the most demanding programmes presented in the Passionately Piano series.

Each work required sheer command of technique, great virtuosity and an enormous emotional range, but Serbian pianist Sonja Radojkovic proved equal to the task.

Bach's Partita No 6 would rank among his grandest works for keyboard, but when Beethoven's magnificent Appassionata Sonata follows then the challenges are indeed great.

Ms Radojkovic's performance of these masterpieces reflected great virtuosic power and technical control as she explored their inner depths with sensitivity and an eye to detail.

The second half, featuring Beethoven's Variations in C minor, Mendelssohn's Variations Serieuses, Prokofiev's Sonata No 3 and

Tadjewicz's Seven Balkan Dances, all shorter in length but no less demanding, continued to reflect the sheer brilliance of the soloist.

Sonja Radojkovic is indeed one of the great pianists of our time.

These pieces were beautifully presented, the climaxes superbly shaped and exquisitely balanced by the quieter moments in each work as this pianist easily won the admiration of the audience.

And if one thought that it would be odd to attend such a concert without the appearance of Chopin, we were not disappointed as, for her encores, Ms Radojkovic turned her attention to three of his popular concert favourites including the much loved Fantasy-impromptu.

It proved to be of no surprise that these works received the same passionate attention already evident, reflecting the pianist's obvious empathy with and exploration of the composer's intentions.

STEPHEN FISHER