

Song recitals to savour in city church.

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SONG recitals are rare in Plymouth. The one promoted by Plymouth Concerts at Stoke Damerel Church last Sunday afternoon was also truly memorable. It attracted a big audience.

Soloist Axel Rykkvin, already famous in his native Norway as a boy soprano, has already become an outstanding baritone and he is still only 20. Professional singers in the audience were amazed at the speed of his development and the maturity of his performance.

Accompanied by pianist Zany Denyer, already a prizewinning Young Steinway Artist at just 22, and Charles Mutter, leader of the BBC Concert Orchestra, playing viola, Axel sang songs by Schubert, Grieg and Alnaes in the original German and Norwegian. A most informative souvenir programme provided translations.

Mutter's rich-sounding viola provided solos by Clara and Robert Schumann. Charles also arranged some of the songs to include viola in the accompaniment, a most welcome addition.

Plymouth Concerts' treasurer, Charles Morgan, funded the concert personally in memory of his father, David John Morgan, who had long been a fan of Axel Rykkvin. All proceeds go towards Plymouth Music Accord's work in education.

Clive Jenkins

CAPTION(S):

Soloist Axel Rykkvin with pianist Zany Denyer and Charles Mutter, viola

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