

Tayside Organists' Society

"At Home" piano recital by Sylvia Knox in Letham, Angus

Saturday 16th October 2019

Review by Bryan Weir

Sylvia hosted the first of two "At Home" events for the Society on Saturday 16th October. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. It was very sociable and we were treated to some outstanding fare, both in terms of some (lots of) lovely home baking and a wonderful programme of music performed on Sylvia's gorgeous grand piano. It really was an outstanding choice of music, varying from J.S. Bach and Chopin to Prokofiev played beautifully and with great feeling. What was remarkable to me, and to another of our company who, it turns out, has the same piece of his brain missing that prevents us from performing even the simplest piece of music from memory, that Sylvia performed all these most challenging pieces entirely by memory. We were most impressed. In addition to that, Sylvia added to the interest and enjoyment by giving us some interesting backgrounds to each piece of music.

We really weren't quite sure what to expect on Saturday but even if we had had some expectations they would have been greatly exceeded. Sylvia said she had a real desire to "do something" which could either have been to make pancakes or play music. We are so grateful she chose the latter, although the home baking was also outstanding! It really was so generous of Sylvia to open up her home for this, to provide such hospitality and to put in such a power of work in preparing for her performance. For this reason, to anyone who was swithering whether to go to Sylvia's repeat event for the Society on 16th November, I say that I thoroughly recommend it.

We had the added bonus of being able to browse the collection of LPs of a Society member who is moving house and whose records were available to inherit. Donations to Christian Aid were invited for these and for Sylvia's outstanding efforts.