

## Tayside Organists' Society

Recitals by Mrs Sylvia Knox

Wednesday 18 May 2022 and Saturday 21 May 2022

*Review by Kevin Veal*

To mark her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, our esteemed member, Mrs Sylvia Knox, of Letham in Angus, hosted two recitals on the beautiful grand piano in her home, to raise funds for the Red Cross Appeal for Ukraine and the many humanitarian demands that that country is currently facing.

The programme was as follows: -

### Part One

1. Two movements from Partita No. 2 in C minor "Rondeau" and "Caprice" – J S Bach.
2. Intermezzo in A major. Opus 118 No. 2 – J Brahms.
3. Waltz in E major Opus 64 no. 2, and Nocturne in F major Opus 15 No. 1 – F Chopin
4. "Reflets dans l'eau" (From Images Book 1) – C Debussy

### Part 2

5. Prelude in D Opus 23 No. 2 – S Rachmaninov
6. "Minuet" from "Sonantine" – M Ravel
7. "Wedding Day at Troldhaugen" Opus 65 No. 6 – E Greig

As an encore on Wednesday, Sylvia played what she described as her "signature tune", *Jesu, joy of man's desiring* by J S Bach.

The whole programme was played from memory on both dates and was of the highest standard. Sylvia's technical ability, her sensitivity and interpretation of some extremely challenging pieces of music allied to her obvious love for her music and the opportunity to share her talents with her friends and fellow musicians shone throughout the whole of both the performances. In addition, before each programme item, she shared anecdotes about the individual composer.

During the interval, those present were treated to refreshments of tea/coffee, with cakes, gateaux, and other sweet treats in plenty, homemade by Sylvia and her helpers, who included Mrs Joyce Smith, the wife of our member, David Smith. They were much enjoyed by all present.

At the conclusion of the Wednesday recital, the Society President, Kevin Veal, thanked Sylvia for her welcome and hospitality, in addition to acknowledging her initiative in offering this recital as part of this year's syllabus, and for the quality of her "memory performance". In addition, we were indebted to Sylvia and her willing helpers who had ensured that we were well fed before returning home. On Saturday 21 May, fulsome thanks were expressed by Ian McLagan on behalf of the Society.

On departure, those present generously donated towards Sylvia's chosen charity for these performances, the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.