

## CONSONE QUARTET WOWS CARLISLE AUDIENCE

The Consone Quartet, a remarkable group of young but mature players were greatly enjoyed at the Carlisle Music Society's opening concert of the season.

Their sense of line, warmth, elegance, superb intonation and interesting phrasing immediately engaged the audience.

Haydn's op 54 no 2 was, as is usual with Haydn, full of quips, jokes and the unexpected. It was most beautifully and sensitively played with lightness of spirit; the slow movement was recitative-like, sombre and thought provoking.

Mendelssohn's op 81 consisted of four separate pieces, sold by the publisher as one, which in this writer's opinion, wasn't entirely satisfactory. All were interesting with the Quartet's continued superb ensemble, but the movements didn't relate to each other. They are more "stand alone" pieces.

Schubert's "Rosamunde" Quartet written during the last year of his life was again wonderfully played. The first movement was full of melodies with unanswered questions, mysteries and sorrow. The second with the "Rosamunde" theme was noticeable for its feeling of kindness. More unanswered questions and sadness were evident in the Trio, whilst the fourth movement was jolly and cheery.

The encore, a wacky scherzo from another late quartet by Schubert, full of fun, was a great way to end a fabulous evening! We look forward to a return visit from the Consone Quartet!

Joy Hall