

Jane Lindsay, (cellist) and Jennifer Hughes,(pianist) gave a warm, vibrant and inspired performance at St Cuthbert's on 11th February for the Carlisle Music Society.

Opening the programme was one of the cello repertoire's masterpieces: Debussy's Sonata L.135 (1915). Jane gave this demanding work a sparkling performance, superbly matched by Jennifer's mastery of Debussy's intricate piano score.

Beethoven's Sonata No.4 Op.102 No.1, written a century beforehand, followed. Jane, on her cello made eighty years earlier, brought out the rich tones and passion of this two-movement enigmatic sonata. The perfect co-ordination and timing of these two talented artists so enhanced their interpretation.

Three of Brahms' transcription for cello and piano of his own settings of Lieder, Wie Melodien, lullaby Wiegenlied and Feldeinsamket,completed the first half. Cello and piano brought out fully Brahms' expansively silky melodies and harmonies.

The one work after the interval was Richard Strauss' Sonata in F major, Op.6, started when he was seventeen and completed two years later in 1883 and exhibiting both Strauss' lyrical melodic writing for cello and considerable understanding of piano. This was amply and brilliantly demonstrated by the performers giving a bravura performance of this engaging work.

Both artists gave clear evidence of glittering prize winning and careers so far. A joy and delight as shown by the audience's long and well-deserved applause.

On Wednesday 16th March, the distinguished Czech Trio Martinu will close the season in style with Trios by Beethoven, Martinu and Dvorak.

John Churchill