

Tadashi Imai (Piano) - January 22nd, 2015

The young Japanese pianist Tadashi Imai delighted a large and enthusiastic audience at St Cuthbert's Church Carlisle with a wide-ranging and absorbing programme of nineteenth and early twentieth century piano music. Tadashi, a competition winner in Japan and the USA, presented music of great lyric and poetic imagination in the first half of his recital including Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, Schumann's *Kinderszenen* and Chopin's great *Barcarolle*.

The Beethoven was executed with great attention to textual detail and an impressively dynamic and extremely precipitate finale which contrasted well with the lyricism of the opening movement. The Schumann and Chopin had nice moments of poetic charm especially in the famous *Traümerei* and in the final *Der Dichter Spricht*. Chopin ended the first half of the recital the *Barcarolle* having real charm, especially the section where the music moves from minor to major. The Liszt *Weinen Klagen* variations based on a theme from Cantata BWV 12 saw Tadashi at his best and impressive. The technical challenges were easily overcome and the contrasts in which Liszt's work moves from overwhelming grief to consolation were movingly conveyed. The evening concluded with Debussy's *Images* sensitively played and a rousing and exciting Bartok *Sonata* full of crossing hands, hair-raising leaps and percussive syncopation.

As a final offering Tadashi was persuaded to give a less energetic but charming encore, Godowsky's transcription of Albeniz's famous *Tango*. The Carlisle Music Society's series continues on the 19 February with a piano duet recital which will be enjoyable and fun.

Graham Robertson