

Bochmann Quartet at Lower Machen Festival

Dynamic contrast is a striking feature

THE Lower Machen Festival continued on Saturday evening with a recital by the Bochmann String Quartet who were joined by Susie Meszaros as the extra violist for Mozart's *Quintet opus 593*.

The Bochmann Quartet are well balance tonally and dynamically, and seek to provide a clear character for each movement they perform.

The quartet are at their most beguiling in slow

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and quiet passages, so it was no surprise that the *Tres Lent* of the Ravel *Quartet* was filled with playing that was both affecting and attractive.

In fact, in a programme that on paper seemed to be one of pleasant — if to the listener undemanding — music the performance of the Ravel *Quartet* was one of high quality, with the dynamic contrast

between that *Tres Lent* and the following *Vif et Agite* being particularly striking.

Mozart's musically less interesting *Quintet in D*, the third of that composer's final four string quartets, proved to be a work upon which it was more difficult for the now-augmented Bochmann Quartet to stamp any memorable quality as the music slipped effortlessly by.

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