

## NWSQ at St David's Hall, Cardiff

# Spirited display

I HAVE to admit that listening to the turgid morass of music that is Tchaikovsky's *String Quartet Number Three* is not my favourite idea of fun at lunchtime.

This work formed the centrepiece of the lunchtime concert given by the New Welsh String Quartet at St David's Hall on Tuesday.

Although the impetus of the performance slackened at times — most notably so during the de-

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velopment section of the first allegro moderato — by and large the performance was a spirited one with plenty of commitment evident from the four players.

The NWSQ was formed in recent years and all four players are members of the orchestra of the Welsh National Opera Company and this was the NWSQ's debut recital in St David's Hall. It bodes well for the future.

Especially so since the quartet introduced an interesting new work — *Suite Russe* — also by Tchaikovsky. This consists of four early piano works arranged for string quartet by David Seaman.

Of these movements, *Reverie*, sounding in this performance like a beautiful substitute for Lensky's aria in *Eugene Onegin* is a substantial and attractive addition to the repertoire of chamber music.