

Swiss trio at St Donats

Full steam ahead into music waves

By IFAN
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REVIEW

FRANK Martin's *Trio Sur Des Melodies Populaires Irlandaises* came at an interesting point in his musical development.

The Trio was composed in 1925 and was the first of Martin's works to break with the French tradition of Franck, Faure and Ravel.

Martin was a follower of Jaques-Dalcroze's eurythmic methods — designed to create by the help of rhythm a rapid and regular current of communication between brain and body.

In this Trio Martin first sought to compose a work in which melody and rhythm were explored free from more traditional formal constraints.

During the well-played and interestingly-programmed concert at St Donat's Bradenstoke Hall yesterday evening the Swiss Trio Musiviva performed their countryman's enchanting and invigorating Trio with appropriate aplomb and sensitivity, successfully portraying both the ethereal passages of the first movement and the many

rhythmically impassioned sections throughout the work.

Like a battleship heaving full ahead into heavy musical waves the Trio Musiviva launched into Schubert's *B Flat Major Trio* and, wearing their hearts on their sleeves, presented a large-scaled performance full of dynamic and tonal contrasts. This was chronologically advanced in style perhaps, but emotionally effective nevertheless.

In Mozart's *Trio in B Flat Major, K502*, the three Swiss were most effective in conveying the vocal quality of the *largo*, as though it were a seamless aria for a yearned-for love.