

Vladimir's Viennese Concert

It was a full house at the Theatre Royal for a glorious night of Vladimir's Viennese Evening. The audience loves the ambience of these orchestral concerts, where the violinist Vladimir Jablokov and his family delight audiences with the warmth of memory, the lyricism of good music from a quality chamber, so that people are transported into an almost intimate family setting, as Jablokov's memories and stories are almost their memories and their sense of shared happiness. Add to that the tenor charm of Sean Costello and the beauty of soprano Claudia Boyle, and the mix was a dream. The opening was with Austrian composer, Nico Dostal's, Flieger Marsch from his operetta, Der Fliegende Rittmeister, about an air ace in the war. Dostal is almost forgotten as an operetta and movie music composer who died in 1981. The Strauss, Annen Polka was high heaven before the singer's duet on, Vienna, City of My Dreams, and Claudia Boyle transported the audience with a Csardas from Die Fledermaus. Then the popular, Roll out the Barrel Polka swept the audience into the rapture of the Merry Widow Waltz, where singers and orchestra were floating on a glow of music. Sean Costello stilled the mood with a gentle, Silent Night, and the rousing Tritsch Tratsch Polka rocked into the interval. A topical Prokofiev, Troika, set the happy mood with great piano work from Olga Jablokov on Sleigh Ride. Claudia Boyle hushed the audience with the beautiful, The Wexford Carol. Vladimir and his brother Anton were jazzy for, All I Want for Christmas Is You. The father, Alexander showed his style with, The Forest Raised a Christmas tree, a famous Russian folk song. Katherina, the mother stilled the heart with a poignant Schubert, Ave Maria on violin. Then it was flirty Christmas songs, and a rousing, The Blue Danube in its many moods, followed by a rip roaring crowd-calling-out-for-more, Radetzky March.