**FREE FAMILY CONCERT – PETER & THE WOLF**

**REVIEW**

Not every orchestral concert ends with hundreds of children stampeding up and down the aisles, but that was the climax of the Bay of Plenty Symphonia's free Family Concert!

The event (Sunday 4th September) at Holy Trinity Church was a delight for the close to one thousand audience members in attendance.

The Symphonia performed a well chosen programme of exciting pieces which introduced the instruments and clearly demonstrated how an orchestra can tell a story.

A quick blast through Stravinsky’s Pulcinella, and then on to the main course: Peter and the Wolf. Composed in 1936 by Sergei Prokofiev, this perennial favourite was eagerly received by fresh ears.

There were chuckles, gasps, and a nervous ‘is the wolf coming back?’ from the unrestrained audience (Let’s face it, most cymbal clashes deserve a gasp).

The more experienced audience members seemed charmed by the responses of these appreciative first-time attendees.

Jeremy Hantler, as narrator, guided us through the story in clear, concise passages and with a distinct accent for each character. The wolf went off to the zoo, and all was quiet.

Mr Hantler (a local musician and educator) had another trick up his sleeve: he had cleverly choreographed a dance routine to the Toreador song from Bizet’s opera Carmen  that had young spectators charging like bulls, strutting like Toreadors and twirling like elegant ladies as the orchestra played on.

A few deep breaths and then the concert was brought to its conclusion with the Shaker melody from Aaron Copeland’s Appalachian Spring.

After speaking to many of the younger audience members, the consensus was clear;

“The wolf wasn’t THAT scary”

The drums (timpani) were the favourite instrument.

The concert was “very cool”.

And the best bit was the Bulls.

**Katy Cable**

**Technics Music Academy**