

Leicester Mercury

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Review by Neil Crutchley
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The first of this season's Museum Lunchtime Concerts featured the unusual but attractive combination of guitar and oboe. Jacob Cordover (heard at this year's Leicester International Music Festival) impresses with his intuitive musicianship and impeccable technique. Oboist Laura Karney, proved an equally distinguished partner.

The quality of interpretation was immediately apparent in a beautifully phrased, expressive account of an arrangement of the Adagio from Bach's Toccata Adagio and Fugue in C.

Other than the Bach and a brief movement from Piazzolla's Histoire du Tango, the rest of the programme (5 items) was unfamiliar. This was a daring strategy that could have accounted for the less than capacity house.

However, the unknown works were rewarding to hear and included two world premieres: Madrigal by the Norwegian Frederick Brattberg – an effective combination of modern instrumental techniques and early musical styles, and the engaging Duo by Hywell Davies.

There was an impressive organic quality to Terry Mann's Melodicle Canon No.3 (receiving its UK premiere) with its "linear" structure, beginning and ending with a quiet motif and rising to an animated central climax.

Philip Houghton's mellifluous and descriptive suite for solo guitar, Stele (beacons), had immediate appeal and was superbly played as was Paulo Bellinati's delightful but brief Jongo with its infectious rhythms and numerous key-changes.