

## Amadeus concert review

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### John Manning reviews Amadeus' latest concert.

For some time it has been the policy of Amadeus, the St Albans Chamber orchestra, to give young musicians the opportunity to perform but their latest concert really let youth take the lead.

The first concert since the retirement of long time and popular conductor Simon Thompson saw Joel Sandelson, who is studying conducting the Royal Academy of Music, take the stand while the soloist for Mozart's *Piano Concerto No 24* was outstanding young St Albans-based pianist Julian Trevelyan. The event, on Saturday at St Peter's Church in St Albans, can only be described as an outstanding success.

Joel's handling of the music from the opening with Schubert's *Overture in the Italian Style in D Major D590* to the end with Joseph Haydn's *Symphony 104, the London*, produced a thoroughly delightful evening.

His precise but apparently relaxed style appeared to work well with the orchestra which once more excelled in its overall performance.

But overall it was Julian Trevelyan's performance in the

concerto that stole the show.

Listening to his supremely confident performance it is quite hard to realise that this is a young man aged only 19. His performance was full of life and character and demonstrated why he had already received top competition prizes, both in this country and Europe.

Such was his ovation from the packed audience that Julian was pushed into playing two encores, a *Mazurka* and a dazzling *Etude*, both by Chopin.

Now studying piano and composition in Paris, Julian clearly has a long way to go, but he is certainly a musician with a great future ahead of him.

The concerto is a work where the piano is in almost constant dialogue with other instruments in the orchestra and thus demonstrated the very high quality of the musicians who make up Amadeus.

It's hard to think that there would have been a better performed concert anywhere in the UK on Saturday. Once more it proved that the standard achieved by Amadeus is at least as good as any regional orchestra in Europe.

Its performance of both the Haydn symphony and Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances* in the second half was delightful.