



6 February 2017

## **EILAT CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL: MUSIC MIXED WITH A WARM WINTER**

The Geneva Camerata performed at the Eilat Chamber Music Festival with soloist Viktoria Mullova, under the orchestra's music director David Greilsammer. This multi-national ensemble played on modern instruments, but it was obvious that the group belongs to an era in which authentic and historical approaches have strongly been embraced: a clear sound, fast tempi, tight and bright articulation, total balance between strings and winds, as well as transparency. All these elements were noticeable especially in Haydn's Symphony no.85, where the orchestra displayed a great variety of colors and refined dynamics. The wind players, who have a central role in this piece, were very impressive.

Geneva Camerata's programme was eclectic and suited well the group's innovative and a fresh vision. As an opening, the ensemble presented English Baroque music, when performing a suite from "The Tempest" by Matthew Locke, based on Shakespeare's play. After Haydn's Symphony, the orchestra performed "Uruk", a piece by Martin Jaggi, born in 1978. The piece, commissioned by the Geneva Camerata, explores an ancient world with a contemporary musical language. A returning motive can be heard, while various powerful and dramatic passages take us through a wide range of orchestral atmospheres. A beautiful piece, enthusiastically received by the majority of the auditors.

Viktoria Mullova then joined the orchestra for a lyrical, restrained, but warm interpretation of Mozart's Violin Concerto no.3. When the orchestra performed with the soloist a movement from Haydn's G Major Violin Concerto as an encore, I couldn't help myself thinking how delightful it would be if the Geneva Camerata recorded an all-Haydn album.

*Amir Mandel*