



PRESS REPORT on WOLVERTON MANOR CONCERT May 21st 2011

A packed audience heard a concert of staggering music given by two musicians of exceptional talent from the USA. Sophie Till playing her 1732 Nicolo Gagliano violin and Ron Stabinsky on the Bechstein Grand created a concert of depth and challenge which was agreed by those present as world class. The more usual pieces were an impressive performance of *Bach's Sonata No 2 in B Minor* and Schubert's *Duo in A Major* which were played with wonderful sensitivity and skill, making the audience comfortable and secure for the other pieces they chose to play. They were able to shift the mood of the evening from the better known Baroque and Romantic to the works of two modern Russian composers who are not often played in this setting if at all. *A Paganini* by A Shnittke was a triumph of solo playing producing sounds and melodies that seemed almost impossible from a violin. This provoked a new and special musical experience which Sophie achieved in an astonishing display of versatility and skill. Certainly Schnittke will now take a place in the musical memories of all present. The second piece played was the *Sonata No 1 Op.80* by Prokofiev who though well-known was very difficult and in many ways a tragic Russian composer who produced this sombre but moving work at the end of his life. It was premiered by David Oistrakh who also played it at Prokofiev's funeral. Sophie and Ron were triumphant in their performance and left their audience overwhelmed by intensity and musical skill. This was the second time they had performed together at Wolverton and their return in the future cannot be too soon.