

THE Strad

April 2002

As I wrote in The Strad 2000 violinist **Sylvia Rosenberg** at her best plays with authority, intelligence and appealing tonal warmth and lyricism. Those qualities were all on display at her recital in Weill Hall (27 January) when she played to a full house. On this occasion her violin sounded almost viola-like, a definite mezzo-soprano-an impression heightened by her slowish wrist vibrata. The dark colour was just right for Brahms's Sonatensatz which she performed with pianist **Barry Snyder**. Their teamwork was of a high level throughout. Snyder provided the impetus in Mozart's Sonata in A major K626 and both players achieved a pleasing delicacy and intimacy of expression in its Andante.

After the interval Rosenberg was joined by violist **Veronica Salas** and cellist **Lutz Roth** for the premiere of Dove, Star-folded by Peter Maxwell Davie. With a little borrowed from the Orcadian poet George Mackay Brown. This eight minute work is described by its composer as 'contemplative'. Although not entirely 'listener friendly' with much frilling and high-register figuration, it did not outstay its welcome. Two other sonatas, Schumann's op.121 and Faure's op.13, concluded the first and second half respectively. The Faure was especially compelling and made an exhilarating finish.