

## **St. Michael at 6**

### **The Alba Trio - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

Concert Review by Lewis Forbes

One of the largest audiences seen yet at a St. Michael's at Six concert greeted the Alba Trio (Alison Gordon, violin; Harriet Davidson, cello; and Claire Haslin, piano) whose intelligent, refined and elegant interpretation of Beethoven's *Archduke Trio* undoubtedly deserved such an impressive turnout.

The opening *Allegro* was majestic yet delicate – contrasting declamatory themes with lyrical passages, which Alison Gordon really made sing. The experience of this trio was evident from the interplay between the players, as well as their unspoken communication. The blend of instruments was also near perfect, particularly when considering the tricky acoustics of the church.

The *Scherzo* was typically playful, but did manage to successfully build tension where required. The highlight of the piece was, however, the *Andante* third movement, which combined a beautiful, chorale-like piano part by Claire Haslin with cantabile duet playing from the strings.

The concluding *Allegro* was well-controlled and spirited, particularly in the intricate piano part.

The encore took the form of an Elegy by Suk, which juxtaposed “eastern European mystery” with lush sections. It proved to be a poignant yet optimistic end to an excellent concert.