

## REVIEW THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Kings Lynn Festival August 2004



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### The Philharmonia Orchestra

**MICHAEL DRAKE**

12 August 2004 10:45

From the first unison chords and the following horn melody, the orchestra produced some magnificent sounds as, conducted in lively fashion by Emmanuel Siffert, they opened with Weber's Overture and later Freischütz, which is practically a symphonic movement all on its own.

The young Korean violinist So-Ok Kim then took centre stage in Brahms's violin concerto and from the first orchestral bars she was inside the music in anticipation.

Light of stature she may be, but she exhibited a great strength in her playing, especially in the long cadenza to the first movement with much noble stopping echoing the main theme.

She then developed the beautifully laid cello theme with sensitivity and tenacity before the dashing finale – her stresses on strong beats and rhythmic quality being of the highest order. It was a delightful performance.

Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 5 completed the programme and once again, after early brass fanfares, there was wave upon wave of exceptional string sound.

The chattering little trio after a dancing opening were features of the allegro and, after time for reflection in the short Andante, delicate woodwind led into the chorale and subsequent powerful development.

It was through the orchestra produced a consistent and wonderfully upward, sharp tone to bring another friendly festival to a close with a flourish.