

# A REVIEW OF

## SOUND BEGINNINGS: THUMBELINA

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Piano: Elena Zozina and Mikhail Korotkiy

Narrator: Richard Morris

WOW! What a show!

I didn't quite know <sup>what</sup> to expect - I have never been to a performance on a sam banya. I am glad it didn't involve pigs running around my seat or sharing a seat with a sheep.

The audience had a choice of chair and big, sluzzy beanbags - I chose a beanbag, which was a comfortable way to enjoy the show.

The performers entered the hall, then Richard Morris gave a good, clear introduction to the pianists, himself and the story. Then, we got underway...

### What I liked:

- Elena and Mikhail were very skilled pianists. Their fingers moved extremely fast and they played interesting, exciting music that fitted very well with the sections of the story that Richard had just told.
- There was brilliant interaction between the performers and the audience. Pianists and narrator alike all gave great facial expressions that portrayed the music and story beautifully.
- We weren't just on audience! We were also invited (at various points) to get to our feet and act out parts of Thumbelina's tale, making us part of the performance too. This really brought the show to life for me.
- Richard created wonderful voices for all the different characters. My favourite part of the performance was his superb voice for Mr Toad, matched with the grumpy, lumpy piano music in that section.

### What I was not so keen on:

- Even though it mostly ran smoothly, there was one hiccup where the pianists could not find the next page of their music, which interrupted the flow.
- Sometimes the balance between the length of the music and speech sections wasn't quite right.

### How did I feel?:

- The pace of the performance made me excited for what would happen next.
- At the start, I felt very sorry for Thumbelina, but by the end I was happy for her.
- The music made me feel calm, laugh out loud and smile.

### Star rating:

- I give this performance 4.7 stars.

