

## REVIEW

# Soloist in a class of his own

BY RODDY PHILLIPS

IT'S customary for youth orchestras to perform with a young rising soloist, but the brilliant Youth Orchestra of the Netherlands decided their first visit to the youth festival and the Music Hall in Aberdeen would be a memorable one and came fully armed last night with one of the greatest cellists in the world, Peter Wispelwey.

An award-winning virtuoso, Wispelwey is renowned for his many superb recordings of Bach's Cello Suites and, after a transporting performance of Blochs' Schelomo, Hebraic Rhapsody, during which the cellist and the orchestra held the audience rapt, we were treated to an astonishing encore from Wispelwey of the Sarabande from Suite No 1.

The 96-strong orchestra was obviously thrilled at performing with such a charismatic musician, but every one of them had earned their place.

Opening with a breathtaking reading of Rimsky-Korsakov's Caprice Espagnol, they set the tone for a concert that would come to a dynamic finish with a fully-rounded and highly-mature performance of Mahler's Symphony No 1 under the baton of Jurjen Hempel.

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