

Last weekend I had the chance to travel to Saint-Lô, Normandy, in France with Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra for a concert tour. Despite the long, back-aching coach journey, it was a delight to be in Saint-Lô.

We had two concerts during the weekend. We played our first concert in Abbaye de Cerisy-la-Forêt, a beautiful mediaeval church. The orchestra played Malcolm Arnold's Tom O'Shanter Overture, Alexander Arutiunian's Trumpet Concerto in Ab Major featuring soloist Rebecca Pianon, who is the daughter of our principal trumpet, and Sibelius' Symphony No. 2, under the baton of Benjamin Ellin. The concert was well received by the audience - we received a standing ovation from the audience at the end of the concert.

The second concert was a charity concert in memory of the victims of D-Day (6 June 1944). The concert consisted a collaboration of the orchestra and the Choeur de Pax Aeterna in Mozart's Requiem. All the players were given a card with names of the victims of D-Day as a tribute to the victims, which I think was a very thoughtful gesture by the organisers.

It was a very good opportunity to have a chance in participating in concerts like this - I have not had much chance to do this prior to university. Now, I am looking forward to the concert tour to China with the orchestra at the end of this year.



Our group photo at the Abbey, that's me raising my viola up high.

Ryan Yeap

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