

from Friends of Chopin Australia 22 February 2019

Chairman: Ben James

“Thank you once again for an incredible concert last night. The reaction from the audience has been overwhelmingly positive. Your 4th Prelude is the most convincing and satisfying interpretation I have heard, and pairing it with the Bach Chorale for the opening was simply perfect. The Bartok, I must admit, I had some slight reservations about. Not as regards the music, which is beautiful, but its inclusion in the program. However, all reservations were forgotten immediately as you started to play. The Grainger I think was the definition of the reason you go to a hall to listen to a pianist in person rather than on CD or on YouTube. The energy and intimacy, and the direct communication between you and the audience, brought the Grainger to life. We’re a Chopin society, so we’re biased towards Chopin of course, but the choice to include Mazurkas and Waltzes was perfect, especially placed as they were in the program. The choice of the particular Mazurkas was great, particularly Op17No4, which brought back memories of Horowitz as he played this quite often. But the encore...thank you for playing one of your own compositions. I could not think of a better way to end the concert. It is a beautiful piece, and all I could think at the end of it was that I wished it was the beginning of a Part II of the concert featuring your own compositions.