



## Brilliant concert reaches NZSO's passionate best

THE passion and extraordinary power of the great romantic composers was gloriously revealed by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday evening.

An appreciative Dunedin Town Hall audience was treated to a riveting performance, ranging from serene beauty to drama and aching melancholy in works by Debussy, Rachmaninov, and Shostakovich, conducted by Mark Wigglesworth.

The concert began gently with Debussy's wonderful *Prelude a l'apres-midi d'un faune*, in which the NZSO showed delicacy and subtlety, while enhancing the gorgeous melodies.

The orchestra was then joined on stage by Russian pianist Alexander Melnikov for a thrilling performance of

### REVIEW By BRENDA HARWOOD

Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No 2*. Melnikov was relaxed and in command at the keyboard, whether playing brilliant passages at breakneck speed, or segments of quiet beauty.

The power and versatility of the NZSO was amply demonstrated in a spine-tingling performance of Shostakovich's monumental *Symphony No 10*. Railing against the murderous excesses of Stalin's regime, the symphony is furious, despairing, macabre and melancholy by turns. Under the baton of Wigglesworth, a Shostakovich specialist, the NZSO was absolutely magnificent, mastering the complex and emotional work with aplomb.