

**Bromsgrove Beethoven Quartetfest
28-30 October 2016 at Artrix**



"Cheers, stamping feet and a standing ovation greeted the Dante Quartet at the end of the three day event in which all Beethoven's quartets were played over seven concerts."

So began *The Birmingham Post* critic's review after an enthralling weekend, which drew a near-capacity audience from all over the country. Illuminating lectures from Stephen Johnson, Roderick Swanston and Jessica Duchen were complemented by a workshop from Robin Ireland and a student quartet from Birmingham Conservatoire.

There were enthusiastic letters and e-mails from far and wide, and the following three sum up what for many was the experience of a lifetime.

A short email to say thank you for the Beethoven weekend. A great experience - performance, lectures, catering and general organisation - all perfect. Well done. An experience to be remembered. Probably a 'once-in-a-lifetime'.

John Kent, Birmingham

Just a brief note to thank you for, and congratulate you on, the magnificent weekend of the Beethoven Quartetfest. It was an quite extraordinary experience, giving me what I had hoped for, and a lot more besides. I think that the Dante Quartet were superb, giving a very coherent, beautiful, interesting and polished account of the totality of these remarkable works, and keeping up their achievements through the 48 hours without flagging in the least! You were very well served by your fine mix of speakers, and the catering team. I do know what lies behind such events in terms of organisation and salute you for the tremendous achievement. None of us will ever be quite the same as a result ...!

Tony Pinchin, Pinner

Warmest thanks to Jim and yourself for the inspired and flawless promotion of last weekend. It was truly a festival, and one with a very intense and special atmosphere. We enjoyed it immensely, and are so glad that the Quartet's fine musicianship has been appreciated in the Birmingham Post. We thought their balance was superb, helped by the excellent sound quality of the Artrix. This helped to bring out some important middle-part details, which can sometimes seem lost. The programming was most effective, and we thought Krysia's idea of playing the entire Razumovsky set together worked brilliantly. We also appreciated the talks and meals very much. We were only too delighted to play a very small part in making the event possible.

Jamie and Alison Justham, Birmingham