

Horn virtuoso once a misfit in field of music

KUALA LUMPUR, Wednesday.

ONE of the world's top French horn players was once a misfit in the field of music.

SENSITIVE PLAYING BY TUCKWELL AT JOINT RECITAL

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Last night's joint recital by Barry Tuckwell, playing the French horn, and Margaret Kitchin, piano, was a fine example of co-operation between two skilful and sensitive musicians.

The combination of horn and piano is somewhat limited in scope, but last night's programme was well selected to display its possibilities.

An interesting early sonata by Beethoven and slighter works by Russian and French composers defined the range in an engaging way.

Pure tones

The most weighty item on the programme was a two-movement work by Schumann, a piece of high romanticism whose free flow of feeling was admirably matched by Barry Tuckwell's warm and sensitive performance.

Although at times playing below his world-famous best, his pure tones and exact phrasing were a delight to the ear.

The programme was intelligently varied by including two items for solo piano, and Margaret Kitchin revealed herself as a fine performer in her own right.

Fascinating

A characteristically smooth set of variations by Mendelssohn was followed by Michael Tippett's first sonata, written in 1938. A work of strong individuality, demanding to both performer and listener, its unusual rhythms and harmonies are used to present some fascinating musical ideas.

It was a great achievement to play this technically difficult music in such a way as to make its large-scale design clear even at a first hearing.—I.C.T.N.

"Until I was introduced to horn playing by a family friend, I was unable to master any musical instrument said Barry Tuckwell, the horn virtuoso.

He is on a Far Eastern tour with his wife, Dr. Sally Tuckwell, and the concert pianist, Margaret Kitchin.

Tuckwell, who has been blowing the horn for more than 20 years, said he had not mastered the instrument fully as yet.

Besides being the principal horn player of the London Symphony Orchestra, he is also a professor of horn at the Royal Academy of Music.

An Australian by birth, Tuckwell now lives in England and has travelled throughout Europe where he has been received with critical acclaim.

Broadcasts

He broadcasts regularly for the BBC and has made several appearances at the Edinburgh Festival. His recordings include all the Mozart Concertos and the serenade by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, conducted by the composers himself.

His wife, a practising doctor of medicine in London, finds life with Tuckwell interesting and exciting.

"I am not in the least bored in spite of the fact that we hardly see each other at times because I work in the day and he in the evenings," she said.

Margaret Kitchin has been the accompanying pianist for Tuckwell for more than four years.

Their recital was held at the Malayan Teachers Training College in Pantar Valley last night.