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## An Evening to Remember

By Helen Drake

On Saturday 28 February, All Saints Church, Durham Road was the atmospheric setting of a special fundraising Concert by The Ellerdale Piano Trio and the venue of a contemporary art exhibition, organised by Martin Schools PTA. Catrin Dillon, Chair of the PTA committee, declared the evening "a resounding success", raising over £800 for the school.

### Art Exhibition

With the snow starting to fall outside on what was a beautiful clear evening, guests gathered at the church for a drinks reception and a chance to mingle and view the exhibition, organised in conjunction with 'East Finchley Open', a new initiative by artists and craftspeople living and working in East Finchley and the Barnet area. "We want to increase the visibility of local artists and are hoping to organise a group show of some kind to coincide with the East Finchley Festival", said David Aronsohn who co-ordinated the exhibition. All artists gave a percentage of their sales to the school.

### Enthusiastic audience

Sarah Down (piano), Martin Smith (violin) and Melanie Woodcock (cello) received an enthusiastic welcome from the audience that included several children who had been brought along by their parents to

experience their first classical concert. Martin Smith acted as a genial compère for the evening, introducing each piece of music with snippets of information about the composers and amusing anecdotes.

### Surprise

As part of the carefully selected musical programme The Ellerdale Trio had chosen Bergerettes by Boshuslav Martinu, as it is a particular favourite in their concert repertoire. At the end of the concert the Trio surprised everyone by returning to play *Spiegel im Spiegel* by Arvo Pärt, an ethereal piece of music which suited the mood of the evening perfectly.

### Sarah Down

Although a familiar face at Martin Schools where she leads the singing and plays the piano for the nursery children each week, Sarah Down is a much in demand professional pianist and a founder member of The Ellerdale Trio. "We couldn't have done this without Sarah," said Catrin Dillon, "and we're extremely grateful to her."



The Ellerdale Trio Photos by Michael Cronshaw and Helen Drake

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