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# **Curtain comes down on festival success**

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The curtain has come down on this year's Hostry Festival and been hailed as a "great success" by the festival's director.

The final concert of the Norwich House Festival Concert Festival was the final event of this year's Hostry Festival, held at Subud House in the grounds of Norwich Cathedral last night.

It brought 11 days of theatre, music, dance and arts to a close and in a fitting way for Hostry Festival director Stash Kirkbride, with musicians Chris Ellis and Rosie Toll providing the entertainment.

"We've been able to fulfil my ambition to stretch from 12 events to 22 and it worked," said Mr Kirkbride. "This year we used the Narthex at the (Roman Catholic) cathedral and that was a huge success for some top drawer classical music.

"The cathedral has immediately said they want to work with us again next year, and Jarrold have said they want to work with us on a

### Review

Kustendyke Quartet St John's Cathedral, Norwich The Narthex at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist was the comfortable venue for this enjoyable recital by the Kustendyke String Quartet as

part of the Hostry Festival. The young performers are all students at the Royal Academy of Music. Marisol Lee, the first violin, was born in South Korea, and Mark Lee, the second, comes from Nova Scotia. Ricardo Gaspar, who plays the viola,



children's event for their book department, and an event with schools.

"So this year was about expansion, next year will be about sustainability and about many projects becoming totally self-funding."

Mr Kirkbride praised the work of the non-profit festival's volunteer production team, saying around 80pc of the events have been at least three-quarters full.

He added: "It's been a great success. I'm very proud of it and I hope everyone that has come along has enjoyed it."

Among the final performers were Total Ensemble Theatre Company, which champions inclusive theatre for people of all ages and has many members with additional needs.

It had been performing a series of shows at Norwich Cathedral's Hostry, and held a final workshop on

is Portuguese, and the cellist,

Together they presented an

interesting programme that

light on familiar composers.

Beethoven's Second String

He was still under the

in movements that were

elegant and graceful.

music.

Quartet was one of his earlier

essays in this type of chamber

influence of Viennese masters,

and there was much to savour

Mendelssohn's Sixth Quartet,

on the other hand, revealed

enterprisingly cast a fresh

Raphael Lang, is French.

Saturday morning before an afternoon performance.

The group spent months rehearsing three of the four parts of Dignity (The Right to Move), and the 23-strong cast was joined by about 10 members of the public to create the final section in a five-hour workshop. The four sections were then performed together.

Mr Kirkbride praised the work of Total Ensemble artistic director Rebecca Chapman and her performers, saying: "They were only formed two-and-a-half years ago and what they have achieved in that time is fantastic, with incredible support from the Chivers Trust and Booja-Booja chocolates out at Brooke.

"That has allowed Rebecca to push forward at an incredible rate and what we saw on Saturday was a room bursting at the seams with young performers, many of whom have additional needs, and that is the magic of Total Ensemble."

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greater depths and more anguish than we usually find in his music. The ensemble gave the emotions full expression, just as it brought out the strengths of Grieg's rarely heard First String Quartet. Apart from some moments of flagging inspiration in the second movement, the work was inventive and even thrilling, from the typically forceful opening to the echoes of Norwegian folk styles at the

end.