

Critic: Rodney Smith
Title: Shostakovich's 5th Symphony
Publication: *The Advertiser*
Date: 1 October 2011
Page: 50

Shostakovich's 5th Symphony

MUSIC

Who: Adelaide Youth Orchestra
When: September 25
Where: Elder Hall
Reviewer: Rodney Smith

SHOSTAKOVICH'S *5th Symphony* is not for the faint-hearted and proved a challenging choice for the Adelaide Youth Orchestra

whose ages range from 10 to 22. Not only is it technically demanding but its inner turmoil demands a determined and mature interpretation beyond the powers of many youngsters.

That this performance was genuinely convincing on so many levels should be regarded with real satisfaction within their ranks and, of course, the whole experience will have honed their skills.

Naturally there were many sections that didn't work so well, with cruelly exposed chromatic

string passages in high registers, and some instrumental solos that lacked conviction.

But this youthful ensemble generated plenty of emotional sparks and enough white heat to keep the audience rapt.

Special mention should be made of some splendid playing from the all-important horn and percussion sections.

The program's first half featured tenor Robert Macfarlane adding distinction to Calvin Bowman's *The Purple of Heaven*.