

Overall result: **Distinction****J. S. Bach: Prelude in C minor, BWV 999****29/30**

There was a natural sense of forward movement here from the start. Tone was confidently focused, the hands were well balanced and there was some effective dynamic shaping. Articulation was clear, and rhythms were nearly always very secure.

**Schubert: Minuet and Trio, D. 41 No. 21****26/30**

This was rhythmically secure from the outset, and dynamic contrasts between phrases were well judged. Occasionally at 'forte' touch was a shade too emphatic, and there were some tiny slips and marginal rhythmic unevenness. The pulse was always well maintained, sections were well contrasted, and something of the minuet character came across. There was a small stumble right at the end, however.

**Arens: Moonbeams (No. 1 from Rendezvous with Midnight)****29/30**

The melody line was well projected with a warm tone and a well-sustained legato touch. The hands were well balanced, and dynamic shaping was effective. The pedal added welcome tonal warmth with very little clouding of the texture. Sensitivity to the mood of the piece was evident throughout.

**Bartók: Teasing Song (No. 18 from For Children, Vol. 2)****28/30**

Textures were clear throughout this performance, and articulation was effectively varied in a manner appropriate to the style and character of the music. At times the humour of the piece could have been brought out even more with a little more rhythmic freedom and shaping, but nevertheless, this was a musical performance that engaged the dance-like character effectively.

**Performance as a whole****28/30**

This was a very well-conceived programme, representing a good range of musical style and character. The playing throughout was technically secure, but for small issues of pitch accuracy and touch in the second item. The expressive character of each item was confidently engaged, there was a positive sense of communication, and pacing was good.

Pass 100 | Merit 120 | Distinction 130

Total mark: **140/150**