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Drummond Young, Edinburgh

DONALD FRANCIS TOVEY

17th July 1875 — 10th July 1940

(iv) Pianoforte Quintet in C major. Op. 6.

Allegro maestoso.

Rondo—Allegretto moderato.

Largo appassionato.

Finale—Allegro largamente.

This is a work on a large scale, with four full-size movements, and remarkable for the way in which it exploits the sonorities of the five instruments. The first movement is in heroic mood, the foil to which is an almost wistful pathos which sets in with the viola theme. The clue to the second movement lies in the choice of the key of A flat, and the indication qualifying the tempo mark—"un poco giocoso e teneramente"; the gentle rondo theme mocks, delicately, at its own sentiments, and eventually, after several returns, vanishes like smoke into thin air.

The main theme of the third movement, in F minor, is a long and impassioned melody, which commences in sombre tones in the viola. A beautiful, consolatory major theme presently arrives in the pianoforte, but is soon overwhelmed. The movement reaches a great climax of tragic intensity and dies away in exhaustion.

After the tragic slow movement in F minor, the return to C major with the swaggering and robust opening theme of the Finale, is like a return to normal everyday life. The movement soon develops uproarious high spirits and proceeds in a leisurely way to fill out a very large design, which is rounded off by an extremely spacious coda. This coda starts in a quicker tempo and develops a tremendous momentum which is intensified by the way in which the dynamics cause themes in the foreground suddenly to recede into remoteness, suggesting momentary glimpses of distant views as a landscape passes rapidly before one's vision. The end of the peroration comes with an outburst of almost Bacchanalian frenzy.

Programme—price sixpence.