

TRANSLATION: Petra Hömke-Nagel

Last Saturday night the 8th Acoustic Night Erkelenz took place at the Leonhardskapelle. The audience was entertained by the music of Irish Singer-Songwriter Martin Hutchinson. Alwin Nagel who created the series of concerts, together with his wife Petra Hömke-Nagel, has previously proved his sound sense and astute judgement for good music in Erkelenz . Another excellent choice was Martin Hutchinson.

Hutchinson treated his audience to a glimpses of Irish lifestile in little, three minute portions, while he was entertaining them heartily in a warm and humorous way, telling anecdotes of his life between the songs. He delivered an explanation to each piece of his music. Through this connection between the message of the song and the story behind it, he created something special: he managed to take the audience with him and let them, as guests, experience what he felt in these moments. This was possible, in his opinion, because our feelings are individual and intimate on the one hand and universal on the other, as he said afterwards: no matter what nationality we belong to, we all experience the same feelings.

The tone, of his songs changed from piece to piece, some of them were optimistic and whitty, others sad and rather melancholic, like, for example "My Boy", a song telling about the indestructable love that exists between a parent and a child.

In the course of the first songs the audience saw bright green landscapes passing by before their inner eye, as the concert developed it was to be coloured by more personal details and observations. Hutchinson painted his grandmother "Maggy" in the so called song with his voice and the sound of his guitar. His description was so packed with little details and life, that one could actually visualise his grandmother standing there in the room, lively with a glass of whisky in her hand. With "The Bonus" and a song about flirting in an Irish Pub he completely won the listeners over and caused them laugh many times with his open and whitty expressions.

The communication between audience and artist was familiar and at ease. But this is the main task of music, Hutchinson said after the concert. These places are one of the reasons I play solo, he explained with a glance around the walls of the Leonhardskapelle. The atmosphere, the direct contact to the audience, fits and influences the music in a positive way – it's easy for me and it's as if the music flows from itself naturally. In too big room all this would get lost. The Leonhardskapelle would fit his ideal venue concept. "When Alwin Nagel asked me if I wanted to play here, I looked at the pictures and I knew, this will be great" said a happy Martin Hutchinson. He was right.

Alwin Nagel was also happy with the success of the evening and the positive feedback he heard from the audience. "The concert was sold out the week before, but we had to bring in some extra chairs, to get the crowd that eventually arrived seated" he explained. He and his team behind the Acoustic Night series are now already starting preparations for the next concert night at the 14th of march. Acoustic friends in Erkelenz may be excited to meet the Kyle Carey Trio from the US.