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# The Mushrooms of Doom

The *Mushrooms of Doom* excelled themselves on Friday night in *The Cellar* as they performed Tchaikovsky's 11th to an almost full house. There was not much room left as I squeezed in beside two characters I could only describe as a puffball and a truffle, to soak up the atmosphere before the main act.

The *Mushrooms of Doom* began their music career in a musty basement on the back of *The Beetles* way back in 1970. They were almost crushed by the *Rolling Stones* when their *Steel Wheels* album came out in 1989.

But the *Mushrooms of Doom* bounced back in 1997 with their hit, *Portobello and Me*. We all thought the *Mushrooms of Doom* had reached their peak when they released their 2023 album, *Cook me up a Storm*, in the Beef Wellington Stadium in Victoria, but since then they have continued to grow from strength to strength, flavouring the culture of music around the world, entralling the media, and spawning copycat bands such as *Lion's Mane* in China.

Their performance of Tchaikovsky's 11th was their best ever. It could only have been better if Tchaikovsky had



actually written the 11th symphony himself. However, when Enoki Morels, the band's lead singer, was asked about this, his reply was, "If Tchaikovsky had been around long enough, he would have written this sympathy [*sic*]. And he would have been proud of it."

As the band came on to the stage, sub-harmonic particles floated in the air, electrifying *The Cellar* with a distorted hum. Picking up the sacbut, Porcini launched into the symphony and was gradually joined by the rest of the band.

Angel's solo in the *Death Chorus* was incredible. Not only did she whistle the tune of the *Death Chorus*, but she simultaneously hummed the *March of the Mushroom* with a confronting clash of notes and disharmony.

But it was Shitake's nose whistle that took the show. With sensational control of each nostril, Shitake was able to nose whistle the full three octaves of the main theme of the Tchaikovsky's 11th. Rumour has it that the piercings in his nose are placed precisely in order to tune his nose hairs to concert pitch.

Tchaikovsky's 11th as performed by the *Mushrooms of Doom* is a performance you have to experience to believe. They have three more concerts in *The Cellar* this week before they move on to the Beef Wellington Stadium for the last concert of their world tour.

Tickets can be purchased at *The Ink-Cap*.