

A Review of Lifting and Lovely, a concert of piano duets by Ikuko Inoguchi and Sally Goodworth in St Mary's Streatley on Thames on Sunday May 11th 2026 at 4pm by Stella Robinson

Sally Goldworth and Ikuko Inoguchi gave us a brilliant performance of four very difficult piano duets. If I had not been able to see them, their coordination was so excellent that I might have thought it was one person with four hands. The speed of playing and the complex interactions between the players were very accomplished. The choice of pieces and interpretation was excellent. Overall this was a very uplifting and happy concert.

We were treated to Mozart's Sonata in B Flat Major, KV358, written by Mozart to play with his sister Nannerl on a harpsichord, using the twenty fingers as an entire orchestra of trills and ornaments and including a few loud and startling chords in the middle of the second gently lyrical movement. This was followed by Fauré's enchanting Dolly Suite, a set of movements each written as a present for Dolly Bardac when she was a small child. Poulenc's Piano Sonata for Four Hands followed, a most exciting piece, both for the audience and for the performers, with much hand crossing and very strong dynamics and tempo. Debussy's Petite Suite ended the concert. The pianist and music publisher Jaques Durand had asked Debussy to write some duets accessible to skilled amateurs. Debussy did not pay attention to the 'skilled amateur' instruction but did write a set of wonderful musical pictures. Ikuko and Sally played the entire piece to perfection. The encore was the very jolly Foxtrot and Six Eight by Matyas Seiber. My own favourite was the Poulenc as it is such a splendid conglomeration of serious, comic, joyful and tender, and even at points reminiscent of an express train.

Thank you so much to our wonderful audience, for whom at last we had good weather! And a huge thank you to everyone who provided tea and delicious cakes for us all after the performance, served them and did all the washing up. Especial thanks to our regular volunteers, John, Elaine, Rosemary, Linda and Mary without whom these concerts could not run. The tea and cakes are provided by the Friends of St Mary's (FoSM) and any profits go to FoSM.



