

A Review of the Piano Recital by Russell and Trudi Thompson in St Mary's
Streatley on Thames on Sunday September 14th 2025 at 4pm

by Stella Robinson

Russell and Trudi played a wonderful and uplifting selection of piano duets for us.

They played three of Brahms Hungarian Dances, (numbers VI, VII and VIII), a full version of Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, the Arrival of the Queen of Sheba by Handel and finished with most of the movements from Saint Saens Carnival of Animals. These are popular classical pieces which we often hear at least in part in media productions as well as in recordings but hearing them live, as the composers themselves intended and as they would have heard them, was a great treat. The full potential of these pieces was really brought out by Russell and Trudi. My favourite was the Carnival of Animals especially the complex and glorious duets of the Aquarium and the Swan movements which are so lyrically beautiful.

For an encore they played Percy Grainger's Country Gardens which was a wonderful finish to a bouncing and happy concert.

Thank you also to all the wonderful helpers who make these concerts possible and operational and also those who provide and run the tea and cakes and do the washing up! Especial thanks to John Rogers, Elaine Cox and Linda Ogle. The tea and cakes are provided by the Friends of St Mary's and any profits go to Friends of St Mary's.

Trudi and Russell would like to thank St Mary's and everyone at the concert for being so friendly and welcoming too.

Special thanks to all our appreciative and ever cheerful audience, once again, for arriving in really torrential rain.

Looking ahead please get the sou'westers ready again for Sunday October 19th at 4pm when we have the very talented Goring and Streatley Concert Band Clarinet Ensemble. Don't miss their superb program of Medieval to Modern music. This will be followed by FoSM tea and cakes in the Morrell Rooms.

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