

Review of Peaceful Dreamings – A Piano recital by Rachel Neiger with Poetry in St Mary's Church Streatley on Thames, February 22nd 2026 at 4pm

We were delighted to welcome back Piano Virtuoso Rachel Neiger for another uplifting concert of peaceful and happy music interspersed with poetry. The concert was based on the concept of Peacefulness Through Nature.

The program was: *If Bach had been a Beekeeper* by Charles Tomlinson, **J S Bach - Allemande from French Suite No 4**, *The Sad Shepherd* by W B Yeats, **Schubert - Impromptu in A flat Major Op 142 (1827)**, *Extract from Orpheus* by Percy Bysshe Shelley, **Gluck (arr Sgambati) - Melodie (from Orfeo et Eurydice)**, *To A Butterfly* by William Wordsworth, **Debussy - 2nd Arabesque**, *Nocturne* by Donald Jeffrey Hayes, **Grieg – Nocturne**, *Would I were Erin's apple blossom o'er you* by Alfred Percival Graves & *I would be true* by Howard Arnold Walter, **Londonderry Air by Anon arranged for piano by Percy Grainger**, *Pelicans on the Missouri River* by Jeff Swan, **Scott Joplin - Bethena Waltz**, *Ode to Pity* by Jane Austen, **Dawn by Marianelli**, *George Herbert Love III*, **Encore: Czerney – Study from Opus 821 in B Major**

My personal favourite pieces were the Grieg Nocturne, a musical description of the peace of nature beside a fjord on a Norwegian winter night, and the delightful arrangement of Londonderry Air by Percy Grainger.

Rachel usually plays in large London venues but we are very pleased that she is planning to return to St Mary's next year for a third uplifting and peaceful time with some enchanting tunes and poetry as she enjoys visiting us! Her sparkling and light touch on the piano and her choice of pieces are enthralling.

Thank you enormously to all the wonderful people who chose and read poems to go with the pieces of music, Beverley, Elaine, John, Linda, Mary, Rosemary and our two special guest readers Iain and Max.

The tea and cakes and social time that followed the concert was, as always, an excellent finish to a happy afternoon.

Thank you as always to all the wonderful helpers who make these concerts possible and operational and to those who provide and run the tea and cakes and do the washing up! Especial thanks to John Rogers, Elaine Cox and Linda Ogle. Any profits from the teas go to the Friends of St Mary's.

Finally, as always, thank you to our audience for being there, astonishingly it did not rain, the sun even came out! Let us hope the storm raising effect of our concerts has stopped save for the storms of applause at the end. Our next concert is a piano recital by Max Mostovetski, an award-winning young German pianist on his UK tour on Sunday 19th April at 4pm. **Stella Robinson**