

Review of Piano Recital by Max Mostovetski in St Mary's Church Streatley on Thames,
April 19th 2026 at 4pm

We had a wonderful treat of sublime piano playing on April 19th 2026 by the multi award winning German Pianist Max Mostovetski.

The program was: J.S. Bach's English Suite No 3 in G minor, (BWV 808), Alexander Scriabin's sonata No 4 in F sharp Major (Opus 30) and Felix Mendelssohn, Scottish Sonata in F sharp Minor (Opus 28). He played the lovely Debussy Preludes No 5 Book 2 Bruyeres which means Heath or Heather as his encore.

Max also introduced each piece with lots of very interesting, informative and amusing facts about the composers and the pieces.

These are all extremely difficult pieces technically and Max made them sound effortless and his expressive playing also lifted them to another height. Playing such complex rhythms and multiple themes at very high speeds was virtuosity of the highest order and we all enjoyed a full immersion in the beautiful music.

The entire concert was a wonderful experience of sublime music as all the movements in all the pieces were magnificent. My especial favourites were the Sarabande from Bach's English Suite, full of heart rending beauty more like a tombeau, and possibly thought to be a tribute to Bach's first wife, Bach's customary thematic acrobatics in the closing Fugue movement, the final section of the Scriabin sonata which is a musical description of a human being absorbed by and becoming one with a star, and the first movement of Mendelssohn's sonata describing a misty Scottish landscape.

Max enjoyed playing for us too and he is planning to return for another concert in St Mary's in 2028 so if you are disappointed to have missed this concert there will be another chance.

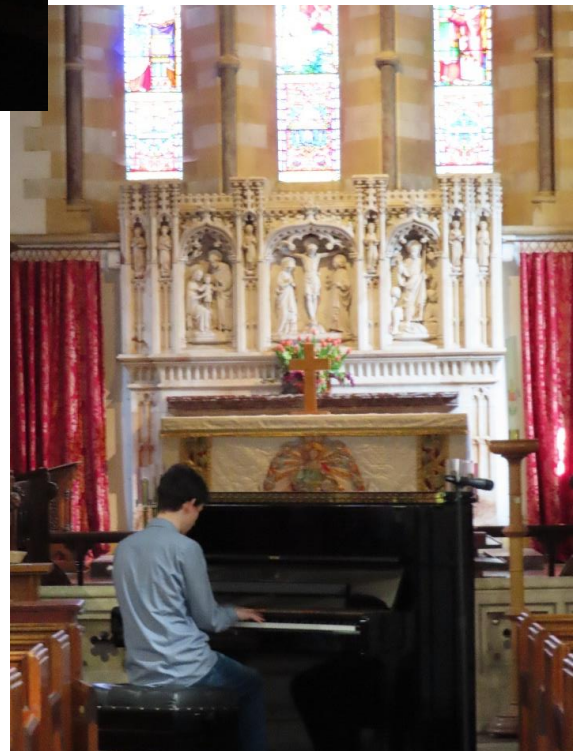
The tea and cakes and social time that followed the concert was, as always, an excellent finish to a happy afternoon. Thank you to all the wonderful helpers who make these concerts possible and operational and to those who provide and run the tea and cakes and do the washing up! Especial thanks to John Rogers, Elaine Cox, Rosemary Mitchell 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, we could not run without you! Our next concert is by Emilija Karaliute playing Classical Music on the Lithuanian Harp (Kankles) on Sunday May 17th at 4pm.

Stella Robinson



Max is rehearsing in these two photos, the pieces are so complex and fast I kept getting blurs for his hands in my photos taken during the performance.



Max speaking to the audience

