

Review of Three Friends, Six Hands, One Piano with Ikuko Inoguchi, Sally Goodworth and Hayley Bell at St Mary's Church Streatley on Thames, September 13th 2026 at 4pm

On Sunday 13th September at 4pm Ikuko Inoguchi, Sally Goodworth and Hayley Bell presented a Trio/Triet concert on the piano in St Mary's Church, Streatley on Thames, playing the piano with all six of their hands at once. Hayley explained that this can cause interesting problems due to the close interactions with the other players. No one would have guessed this as the three players were wonderfully attuned to each other and played as if they were one, tackling difficult trio pieces with apparent ease. Trios produce very rich orchestral textures on the piano.

It was a very happy concert with toe tapping pieces and the performers were clearly enjoying playing together as much as we were enjoying hearing the music.

The program was Hilary Collins Three Friends (pub 1935), Gurlitt's 6 Tonstucke(nos 1,2,4), Rachmaninoff's 'Two pieces for six hands', Xaver Scharwenka's Polish dance, Opus 3 no 1, Marteen D Smit's Tango for six hands, Opus 3 no 10 and Bizet/Guirard/Kowaleski's Carmen Suites No 1 and No 2.

Hilary Collins' Three Friends is a charming little march. Gustav Cornelius Gurlitt, 6 Tonstücke, numbers 1,2, and 4, were delightful and surprisingly familiar as they are used as background music in other media productions. Rachmaninoff's bouncing "two pieces for six hands", with a contrasting fairground rhythm Waltz and a lyrical gentle Romance, was written while Rachmaninoff was a teenager for his three cousins and friends, Natalaya, Ludmilla and Vera Skalon. Xaver Scharwenka Polish Dance Opus 3 no 1, a massive hit in the 19th and 20th centuries, had driving rhythm, fiery mood and frantic energy. Marteen D Smit's Tango for six hands was darkly passionate. Guirand's two orchestral suite rearrangements of Bizet's Carmen music, with the movements reversed in order, were my favourite pieces, rhythmic, moving and beautiful music, with the six hand arrangement by Kowaleski providing the depth of an orchestral arrangement. The encore was Percy Grainger's celebratory and vibrant six hands arrangement of Oh I can't sit down from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess.

The tea and cakes and social time that followed the concert was as always a very much appreciated finish to our very enjoyable program of music. Thank you to all the wonderful helpers who make these concerts possible and operational, before, during and afterwards and to all those who provide and run the tea and cakes and do the washing up. Special thanks to John Rogers, Elaine Cox, Rosemary Mitchell and Linda Ogle. Profits from the teas go to the Friends of St Mary's.

Finally, as always, thank you to our audience for being there, especially as our concert day rain had returned, we could not run the concerts without you!

Our next St Mary's Concert is on Sunday October 11th at 4pm with Duo Acorda; Gary Jordan, virtuoso classical guitarist, and Seth Williams, concert pianist. This concert will include pieces by Georg Telemann, Ivan Andrews, Manuel Maria Ponce and Marek Pasieczny. Tickets £12 and £10 on the door only.

Stella Robinson



Hayley, Sally and Ikuko (left to right)



Sally, Ikuko and Hayley (left to right)