Review of Duo Acorda Take a Musical Trip Round Europe in St Mary's Streatley on Thames on Sunday October 11th 2026 at 4pm

Gary Jordan (classical guitar) and Seth Williams (piano) gave us a virtuoso performance of some very varied and interesting pieces for guitar and piano which included four 21st Century works by contemporary composers out of the six pieces.

We began our tour in Germany with Telemann's TWV41:C2 Concerto in C, moved on to with Ivan Andrews to Val Gardena in the Italian Dolomites (and England), to Andulasia in Spain for the second movement of Concierto del Sur by Manuel M Ponce, on to Wales, Austria and Germany with Steve Goss for Intermezzi:Serenade, to Poland for Marek Pasieczny's Eight Miniatures, my favourite piece from this concert, and the encore of Erik Marchelie's Nuits Andalouses ended the journey in France and Spain.

TWV41:C2 Sonata in C by Telemann was written originally for recorder and basso and is a delightful piece of music that makes the instruments sing.

Val Gardena evocatively describes the sounds of a walk in the Italian Dolomites and is by contemporary Exeter musician and composer Ivan G Andrews who specially rearranged the piece for this concert from two guitars to piano and guitar.

Concierto del Sur was written by Mexican composer Manuel Maria Ponce in traditional Andalusian style for his friend and colleague Spanish guitarist and composer Andres Segovia. It was the first work to feature guitar as a solo instrument with orchestra. The program for the premiere of this concerto in October 1941 said this lyrical second movement was based on '*Back to Granada the eyes And the soul to its Felisardas*'.

Serenade, from Intermezzi, by Welsh contemporary composer Steve Goss, was written for classical guitar and piano for two Dusseldorf musicians, each movement based on a Franz Schubert lieder. Serenade is full of beautiful rippling sounds, like a gently flowing river.

Marek Pasieczny, contemporary Polish composer and musician, composes music for a wide range of instruments and holds many awards and prizes. His Eight Miniatures are all based on Polish folksongs with many different emotions, varying between toe tapping celebration and slower sadder themes.

The encore was Nuits Andalouses by contemporary French composer Erik Marchelie, and is full of vivid images of the sounds of an Andalusian night.

Gary and Seth next concert in St Mary's will be in May 2028.

A very big thank you to everyone who helps run the concerts and provide tea and cakes after the performance. The tea and cakes are provided by the Friends of St Mary's (FoSM) and any profits go to FoSM. Finally thank you very much to our super audience.

Our next St Mary's Concert is Rachel Neiger with Piano and Poetry on Sunday February 21st 2027.

Stella Robinson


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