



It was a very warm day in London on August Bank Holiday and it was remarkably quiet in Trafalgar Square. However a gratifyingly large audience gathered at St.-Martin-in-the Fields to hear a recital by the talented young Croatian pianist Ivana Maria Vidovic. She began with the world premier of a piece written especially for her - Etude in D-minor (Encore for Ivana) by Pero Šiša. To me this did not seem to be particularly challenging for her and was very accessible to listen to, if a little bland for my own taste. She followed this with "El Amor y la Muerte" (Love and Death) by Granados. This was a huge contrast and was

played with great verve and feeling. The music changed mood many times and this was perfectly conveyed by her. Liszt's "Funerailles" was next, beginning with the due solemnity of a funeral march. The musical fireworks followed and I was amazed that such a slender lady can conjure up such power and passion in her playing and yet always give a controlled performance. In total contrast, the next item was Elgar's "Salut d'amour"- a complete switch of mood and played with such charm, delicacy and sensitivity. It was sheer delight! Unsurprisingly the audience demanded an encore and Miss Vidovic changed the mood yet again, playing "Granada" from Suite Espanol, opus 74, by Albeniz. This was a beguiling, rhythmic and foot-tapping conclusion to a wonderful recital. What a treat!

-Pam Anderton, London,
August, 2005.