

WIDE VARIETY OF MOODS, CHARM AND DELICACY

St Martin in the Fields – Concert Review

by Pam Anderton



On November 17th. I attended a lunchtime concert at the beautifully refurbished St. Martin-in-the-Fields, given by the talented Croatian pianist Ivana Marija Vidovic. It had been three years since Miss Vidovic's last recital at St. Martins and the intervening time has given her performance more strength and depth.

She began with "Springtime" by the German composer Michael Denhoff - a premier and dedicated to her. This was very short but played with light and delicacy, apparently using the letters IVANA MARIJA as its theme. The main part of the concert was "Flowers' life" by Dora Pejacevic.

This comprised eight separate pieces, each describing eight different flowers. It encompassed a wide variety of moods, from the light dancing spirit of "Snowdrops" to the rather sombre "Chrysanthemums". Each was played with great delicacy and feeling. It was charming and accessible and I can understand why Miss Vidovic is eager to promote this composer's work. It deserves to be heard more widely and more often.

The performance finished with "Balade No. 2 in B minor" by Liszt, played with power, precision and verve, filling the church with sound.

There was a large and very appreciative audience who continued to applaud until they received their encore. This was the vibrant "Granada" from Suite Espanola No. 47 by Albeniz, full of infectious rhythms.

A fine ending to an excellent concert.

Ivana Marija Vidovic at the piano

