

CONCERT REVIEW St Martin-in-the-Fields,  
29.9.2005, London



It was my great privilege to be at **St. Martin-in-the-Fields** Church on August Bank Holiday **29th o September, 2005.** for the piano recital given my **Ivana Marija Vidovich.**

>From the outset there was a complete emotional bond between player, music and audience. This was no mean achievement considering that she opened with a newly composed work. The «*Etude in D Minor*» by her Croat compatriot **Pero Šiša** presented a significant challenge, hovering as it did somewhere between a traditional tonal idiom -a scent of Mediterranean and a kind of 'new simplicity'. Miss Vidovich

managed, with consummate skill, to conjure sufficient colour in it to raise it above the cinematic.

>From there on the ride became still more intense, with **Granados** «*El Amor y La Muerte*» (*Ballade*) proving a matter of nothing less than fundamental import. The fiery climaxes were played with such physicality that it was at times hard to square ones eyes and ears. And yet by contrast the poetic corners were treated to exquisitely tender, «*Larrochan*» alike pianissimos. This was a pianist taking risks, and, with them, her listeners into far flung places. Some say the best Spanish music is French, but Miss Vidovich makes a wonderfully compelling case to the contrary.

**Liszt's** enigmatic «*Funerailles*» then brought one up short, with a steely terror the order of the day; the articulation almost brutally clean, the surging momentum unstoppable. This was a performance of real scale and stature.

**Elgar's** delightful little salon miniature «*Salut D'amour*» rounded off the scheduled programme with grace to charm and a clear, singing melodiousness. It slipped in, child-like, as if accidentally finding itself in a world of adult turmoil, but was none the less appealing for that.

As the reception for Miss Vidovich was thunderous, she took us back to Andalucian colours with **Albéniz's** evocative «*Granada*», proving that she also had a sparkle in her eye and a deftness

in her touch - an impressive armoury!

...Miss Vidovich has the rare, poetic distiction of playing with her heart whilst thinking with her fingers. If she plays near you do not think twice about taking the ride with her!

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**PRESSCUT-St-Martin-in-the-Fields concerts series,  
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