

Sample Programmes ...

Francis Poulenc
Sonata

Claude Debussy
Golliwog's Cakewalk

Claude Debussy
Petite Suite

Mendelssohn
Suite from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

York Bowen
Suite No. 2 Op. 71

Billy Mayerl
Shallow Waters; Marigold

Percy Grainger
Three Transcriptions
i. *Blythe Bells* (Bach)
ii. *Embraceable You* (Gershwin)
iii. *Country Gardens* (Traditional)

Roderick Elms
Four by Four – four unforgettable classics
i. *A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square*
ii. *Someone to watch over me*
iii. *We'll gather lilacs*
iv. *With a song in my heart*

These are only sample programmes from a large repertoire which can be adapted to suit the occasion. Recitals normally include spoken introductions. These can be tailored to be more of a lecture/recital if required, giving background to the development of the piano duet along with an insight into the practicalities and challenges of duet playing.

Contact Details ...

Email: pianoduo@masterkeyboards.co.uk

www.masterkeyboards.co.uk

Roderick Elms
Suite: Back to Bach
i. *Sinfonia* ii. *Aria* iii. *Gigue*

Johannes Brahms
Waltzes Op. 39

Gabriel Fauré
Dolly Suite

York Bowen
Suite Op. 52

Richard Rodney Bennett
Suite for Skip and Sadie

George Gershwin
I got rhythm – Impromptu Variations

George Gershwin
Three Preludes

Philip Lane
Badinages

Joanna Smith & Roderick Elms



Piano Duo

The British husband and wife piano duo of Joanna Smith and Roderick Elms have been playing together since 2003, during which time they have given regular performances both on two pianos and as piano duet partners. Their performances include music of all styles and periods as suits the occasion.

Joanna Smith was born in Leigh-on-Sea and studied at the Royal College of Music with Ruth Gerald, where she gained a First Class Honours degree and Postgraduate Diplomas in Performance and Advanced Performance (Accompaniment) with Distinction. She has a busy and varied career accompanying instrumentalists, singers and choirs – travelling widely in the UK and abroad. For some ten years after graduating she worked regularly at the Royal College of Music, accompanying for concerts, auditions and exams, as well as for masterclasses with some of the world's leading instrumentalists. As an accompanist she also works with the London Symphony Orchestra choirs and the BBC Symphony and London Philharmonic orchestras. Orchestrally she has played with ensembles including the BBC Symphony, BBC Concert and BBC Philharmonic Orchestras, Philharmonia Orchestra, Elgar Chamber Orchestra, Southbank Sinfonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra. She also broadcasts for the BBC, both on Radio 3 and for Radio 2's *Friday Night is Music Night*. In the summer of 2016 she joined with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for performances of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* for Grange Park Opera.



She plays with the wind quintet 'The Aurora Ensemble' and has recorded two CDs with them – *Konzertstucke* and *Moody Moves* (which also includes works for saxophone and piano, performed with Kyle Horch). Her other recordings include *The Bliss of Solitude*, with the tenor Richard Dowling, of English songs and solo piano music, released on the Herald label. This CD also features the premier recording of a song-cycle from which the album draws its name, by Andrew Wright, Organist and Master of the Music at Brentwood Cathedral.

Roderick Elms studied at the Royal Academy of Music. Since leaving the RAM in the mid-seventies, he has broadcast regularly for BBC Radio 3 and Radio 2's *Friday Night is Music Night* and has made numerous recordings with the BBC Concert Orchestra including music by Charles Williams (notably *The Dream of Olwen*) and film music for piano and orchestra by Spolianski. For more than twenty-five years he has enjoyed a close

relationship with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and their recordings include *Warsaw Concerto* (a firm favourite with Classic FM), Rozsa's *Spellbound Concerto*, Bath's *Cornish Rhapsody* and da Falla's *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*. Other recordings include Frank Martin's *Ballade for Piano and Orchestra* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra

For many years Roderick Elms was the London pianist to the legendary cellist Mstislav Rostropovich as well as organist to the London Symphony Orchestra with which he recorded an extensive list of titles for EMI and Chandos. This includes all the major oratorios of Elgar and the award-winning recording of Britten's *War Requiem*. His recordings as organist also include *The Gentle Art of Percy Whitlock*, featuring music by Percy Whitlock played on the organs of Brentwood Cathedral and Rugby School Chapel. He has also contributed to many television and film soundtracks including *Poirot*, *Aliens*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *The Hobbit* and the epic *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.



He is also a composer and his music, which is performed widely at home and abroad, features in two recordings with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra – *A Little Fall-ish!* which includes his popular *Concertino for Celeste*, and *Festive Frolic* – a selection of choral and orchestral music for Christmas. *Moody Moves* – an album of his chamber music, which includes his sextet for piano and winds (with the Aurora Ensemble), *Two Anglo Fandangos* for guitar and organ and *Twelve Astrological Preludes* for piano, was released in 2012 to great acclaim. A recording of his Christmas piece *Noel!* for organ and orchestra with the Hallé orchestra was released in 2016 and a new Christmas CD is in preparation.

In addition to recital appearances, Joanna and Roderick have appeared as duettists with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Concert Orchestra with whom, in 2008, they performed Britten's *St Nicholas* cantata in Lancing College in a joint broadcast for BBC Television and Radio 3 – a performance which was subsequently released on CD. With the BBC Concert Orchestra they also gave the first performance of a new piece for piano duet and orchestra, *Paper Dances*, written by Roderick Elms for his wife as a first *paper* anniversary present – a piece which they also broadcast and recorded for the BBC.

They live in Essex with their son, Matthew.