



**BISHOPSGATE
INSTITUTE**

Lunchtime Concerts Stranger Strings

30 July 2021



Introduction

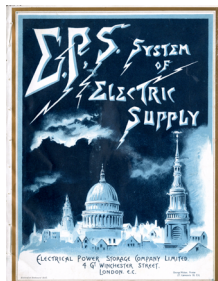


**Find out
what inspired
the artists**

Our free Friday lunchtime concerts at Bishopsgate Institute are back. Join us as we welcome Stranger Strings, who will take us into the world of harp and that most mysterious instrument of them all, the theremin.

Follow us on a journey through nine concerts taking in a range of musical genres, from the traditional to the unexpected. Over the course of the series, you will hear three groups of instruments - strings, percussion and electronics - presented and combined in different ways. Every week we ask our performers to respond to a theme suggested by the collections in our world famous Library and curate their programme around it.

Inspired by our archives



London Pamphlets Collection

Today's concert takes inspiration from the dramatic cover art on a pamphlet produced to promote a new electricity company in late-Victorian London. From the 1880s, the city was slowly transformed by the arrival of electricity. There was so much excitement around this modern form of power that ceremonies took place to mark the opening of each new supply station in London.

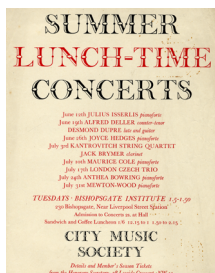
We hold a handful of souvenir pamphlets printed to commemorate these grand civic occasions, along with similar brochures published to celebrate new gasworks, museums, cinemas, banks, hospitals, railway extension lines, sewers, and so on. If you're interested in understanding the changing character of the Capital during the past two hundred years, why not [visit our archives](#) one afternoon to explore these materials?

Meet the artists



Conjuring sounds from thin air, Charlie Draper and Holly Lowe perform as Stranger Strings, an electro-acoustic classical duo combining theremin and concert harp. Modern circuits and antique strings combine in dramatic counterpoints: as hands flutter in mid-air, the instruments' complementary tonal streams cascade and blur into one. The results are otherworldly yet serene.

Formed in 2019, the duo has performed with the Radio Science Orchestra at TEDSummit, at Bluedot Festival, and London's Thames Tunnel. Now, in their début solo programme, they present a spectrum of music for these striking instruments, producing music to delight, mystify and astound in equal measure.



Bishopsgate Institute Archive

History of the lunchtime concerts

Our concerts have been a tradition since the Second World War, when Dame Myra Hess instigated them at the National Gallery to bring people together at a time of hardship.

Lunchtime Concerts began at the Institute in 1948 and Dame Myra's Steinway piano now lives at the Institute and is often played at our concerts. This is our first summer season, building on the success of our regular autumn and spring programmes.

Support our free concerts

Our lunchtime concerts have been a tradition since 1948, providing inspiration and respite from the world outside for an hour a week in a relaxed performance environment. We always pay our musicians for these performances, but the concerts are free to audiences.

Help support these concerts by donating [here](#).

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The summer series of Lunchtime Concerts is supported by The City of London Corporation

