



BISHOPSGATE  
INSTITUTE

# Lunchtime Concerts Conrad Murray

05 November 2021



## Introduction

Our free Friday lunchtime concerts at Bishopsgate Institute are back. Join us as we welcome beatboxer extraordinaire Conrad Murray as he explores themes inspired by our collections.

Follow us on a journey through ten 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 - woodwind, piano and the human body as an instrument - presented and combined in different ways.

At the heart of this series are our well-known archives and each week we ask our performers to respond to a theme suggested by the collections in our Library and curate their programme around it.

"I have chosen to respond to images which remind me of resilience. The initial photo I connected to was a man walking through snow over Blackheath. He looked like a worker or commuter, and this brought to mind the struggle and the forward march of man, to make his mark and keep going whatever the weather.

My work often deals with class, which is the elephant in the room no one wants to talk about, as the privileged want to keep their power and pretend progress is happening. Performing at Bishopsgate Institute seemed like a great opportunity to write and present some of my music alongside a collection of their photos.

I teamed up with rapper Gambit Ace to bring some of his lyricism and energy to the performance." - Conrad Murray



Watch our  
summer series  
of concerts

## Inspired by our archives

Our lunchtime concert today explores the theme of resilience. Conrad Murray has taken inspiration from a 1979 photograph, which shows a solitary figure walking to work across the snowy wastes of Blackheath in south-east London on a winter's day.



Morning Star Photographic Archive

This image is one of thousands of black and white prints we hold in the Morning Star Photographic Archive. The Morning Star is a socialist newspaper with a long history of providing sympathetic coverage to issues affecting working-class and marginalised communities.

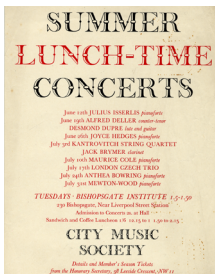
Their photographic archive provides a record of key social and political moments in late-twentieth-century Britain and beyond, many of which were not documented elsewhere. Whether you're interested in second-wave feminism, industrial action, police brutality, or racial tensions you'll find much to interest you in this thought-provoking collection. Why not book a visit to our [researchers' area](#) to view the photographs yourself?

## Meet the artist

Conrad Murray is a theatre-maker, writer, director, rapper, beatboxer, live looper and singer. Based in Mitcham, South West London, he is passionate about making work through hip hop and beatbox theatre, and uses his Anglo Indian working class roots to address issues such as class, race and heritage.

He is currently writing a book on Hip Hop theatre titled Beatbox & Elements with Katie Beswick for Methuen Drama/Bloomsbury.

He was listed in The Stage's Top 100 annual industry list, as well as being part of The Ob-server's Top 10 theatre shows of the year 2020 with Pilot Theatre's Crongton Knights, where he was musical director and composer.



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.

## 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](#).