



**BISHOPSGATE
INSTITUTE**

Lunchtime Concerts Basin Street Brawlers

19 November 2021



Introduction



**Watch our
summer series
of concerts**

Our free Friday lunchtime concerts at Bishopsgate Institute are back. Join us as we welcome Basin Street Brawlers, who will take us into the world of Swing music and highlight yet another side of one of our featured instruments this season, the clarinet.

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.

Inspired by our archives



Battle of Cable Street, 1936,
London History Workshop,
Bishopsgate Institute

This week our lunchtime concert theme is the Thirties, a period that witnessed the rise of Fascism across Europe. The determined efforts by those on the political left to combat this trend are represented in our special collections through the archives of Spanish Civil War veterans Malcolm Dunbar (1912-1963) and Sam Lesser (1915-2010). The anti-fascist struggle is also documented in the pamphlets stored in our Labour History Pamphlet collection, a rich and accessible research resource for anybody interested in twentieth-century social and political history.

By the mid-1930s, running battles regularly took place between fascists and anti-fascists on the streets of south and east London. Housing shortages and high rents were causing real hardship for the city's working classes. Communist activists began to focus their efforts on addressing these issues in areas where support for fascism was rising, such as Bethnal Green, to counter the appeal of right-wing policies. Why not book a visit to our [researchers' area](#) to view these collections yourself?

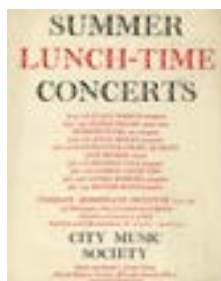
Meet the artists

Basin Street Brawlers are the UK's own "world class" (BBC) early jazz ensemble, famous for playing the most beautiful melodies and raucous rags of the 1920s and 1930s.

Listen as the band swing and stomp their way through the finest songs of Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, and Fats Waller "with all the energy and assurance of a bunch of Kansas City veterans." (The Sunday Times).

This concert will shine the spotlight on their clarinet player Ewan Bleach. A star of the London jazz scene, he is also well known in New Orleans as a member of early jazz and ragtime group Tuba Skinny.

The ensemble regularly play at our [Swing dance evenings](#), run by our in-house dance partner Swing Patrol.



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](#).