



Lunchtime Concerts Thomas Isherwood & Erika Gundesen

10 December 2021



Introduction



**Watch our
summer series
of concerts**

Our free Friday lunchtime concerts at Bishopsgate Institute are back. Join us as we welcome Thomas Isherwood and Erika Gundesen, who present a programme based around British songs from the first half of the 20th Century including works by Britten, Williams and Finzi.

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



London and Middlesex
Archaeological Society (LAMAS),
Bishopsgate Institute

The archive theme for this week's concert is nature. Bishopsgate Institute may be situated in the City but we can help you discover the natural world through our library and archive collections.

We hold hundreds of atmospheric photographs and guidebooks that show and describe London's parks, heaths, public gardens, and waterways. We possess a surprising number of illustrated books and pamphlets on London Zoo such as *Behind the Scenes at the Zoo* (1925), *Mysteries of the Zoo* (1927), and *Friends at the Zoo* (1933). We've also got some niche nature publications from the mid-twentieth century, including a location guide to London's best trees, a photobook of seagulls in the city and a book on cockney cats. Really.

Finally, as you'd expect for a radical archive, we have a wealth of information on the emergence of environmental activism across the second half of the twentieth century, covering campaigns to reduce traffic pollution, increase recycling, combat acid rain, and more. So why not [book an appointment](#) to lose yourself in the natural world in our library?

Programme

Songs of Faith, Nature & Fellowship

Benjamin Britten

Folk Song Arrangements

O Waly, Waly

The Salley Gardens

The Last Rose of Summer

Gerald Finzi & William Shakespeare

Let Us Garlands Bring

Come away, Death

Who is Sylvia?

Fear no more the heat o' the Sun

O mistress mine

It was a lover and his lass

Ralph Vaughan Williams & Robert Louis Stephenson

Songs of Travel

The Vagabond

Let Beauty Awake

The Roadside Fire

Youth and Love

The Infinite Shining Heavens

Whither Must I Wander?

Bright Is The Ring of Words

I Have Trod the Upward and the Downward Slope

Rodgers & Hammerstein

Oh What A Beautiful Mornin'

Lerner & Loewe

If Ever I Would Leave You

Boublil & Schönberg

Stars

Meet the artists

Thomas Isherwood

Operatic baritone Thomas Isherwood (BMus, MMus, ArtDip) began his formal vocal training in 2010 in Manchester, UK. He is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, where he studied with Stuart MacIntyre.

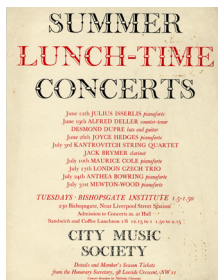
Thomas has worked as a freelance singer since 2015 and has performed small roles and chorus for Grange Park Opera (2015/16) and Longborough Festival Opera (2017/18). Most notably he performed multiple roles in Fiddler on the Roof with Sir Bryn Terfel which was performed as part of the 2015 BBC Proms.

Erika Gundesen

Pianist and conductor Erika Gundesen (ARCT, BMus, MPerf, ArtDip) began her initial studies in Calgary, Canada. She is a distinguished graduate of the University of British Columbia, where she studied with Jane Coop. She continued her studies with Caroline Palmer at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where she was awarded a Masters in Performance as well as an Artist Diploma as a répétiteur.

Erika was an assistant conductor fellow at the Guildhall in 2017. She has competed as a finalist in the Canadian Music Competition as well as the Knigge International Piano Competition. Erika works as a répétiteur and conductor for opera and theatre productions in London, with a particular passion for contemporary repertoire.

She has worked as a music director and pianist for Virtually Opera, London Theatre Workshop, Vivo d'Arte, and for Pint of Wine Productions, as well as amateur societies including Geoids Musical Theatre and the Young Actors Theatre Islington. She has been a guest artist and coach at Opera North, New Sussex Opera, Opera Loki, Debut Opera, the Southbank Centre, Song in the City and the Finborough Theatre. She was also recently selected to participate in a special Women Conductors' Course as a collaboration between the Royal Philharmonic Society, the Royal Opera House and the National Opera Studio. Erika was a National Opera Studio Young Artist from 2017-2018, a Britten Pears Young Artist for 2019, and an Emerging Artist for Scottish Opera from 2018-2019.



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](https://www.bishopsgate.org.uk/donate).

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