

EVENT PRESS RELEASE



Autumn 2018 welcomes the return of concerts to Bishopsgate Institute, celebrating the restoration of our Piano in Residence, Myra: the beautiful 1927 Rosewood Steinway Model D Grand piano once owned by beloved British pianist, Dame Myra Hess.

My Myra: Martin Segerstråle

Saturday 8 September 2018 | doors 18.30, performance 19.00 – 20.30

Opening the new My Myra series, musical director, choral conductor, pianist and composer Martin Segerstråle presents an evening of enchanting chamber music inspired by works of remarkable female composers, featuring the repertoire of Dame Myra Hess herself.

Hosted in the stunning 120-year-old Great Hall, the programme will highlight the work of composers Clara Schumann and Fanny Mendelssohn, and features a performance of Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring in Dame Myra's transcription.

The My Myra concert series

This new programme of events is curated by established and emerging musicians, inspired by their own personal experience of playing Myra the Steinway. Taking place in Bishopsgate Institute's Grade II* listed Great Hall, these concerts will provide an opportunity to relax and indulge in some sparkling events with world-class and innovative musicians. [Watch our Introduction video to learn more.](#)

The second event in our series, [Admission: One Shilling](#) (17 November), features multi-award-winning actress, Dame Patricia Routledge and international concert pianist Piers Lane, telling the extraordinary story of Dame Myra Hess and her famous wartime National Gallery concerts. Tickets are available to book via the box office and online now.



Listings information

My Myra: Martin Segerstråle

Sat 8 September | 19.00 - 20.30

Price: £13 / Concs. £10

Address: Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London. EC2M 4QH

Tube Station: Liverpool Street

Press enquiries: varun.kanish@bishopsgate.org.uk Campaigns Officer

Event Link: <http://bit.ly/2nFfxYu>

Box office: 020 7392 9200

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[Introduction Video Part 1 – My Myra](#)

[Part 2 – We call her Myra](#)

Editors' Notes

Myra the Steinway Restoration

When the Second World War broke out, the government closed London's music halls, theatres, galleries and museums to avoid mass casualties in case of bombing raids. To address the shortage of cultural events for the public, revered pianist Myra Hess put on concerts at the National Gallery to raise morale.

Dame Myra's preferred piano for performances was a Rosewood Model D Steinway Grand from 1927. When Hess retired in 1961, Steinway presented her with her beloved piano, signed by Henry Z Steinway himself. The piano came to the Institute in 1966 after Dame Myra's death.

Myra the Steinway was lovingly restored in 2017 by expert craftspeople at the Steinway & Sons Hamburg and London workshops. The restoration proved to be a long and challenging project given the piano's age and condition. The keyboard was removed and the tuning blocks, pins and strings were replaced. Miraculously the soundboard was intact, which made the restoration feasible, thus the cast-iron frame, which included Henry Z Steinway's signature, was preserved.

The instrument retains its richness, warmth and intimate tones that inspired Dame Myra and that musicians and audiences alike may now enjoy in the My Myra concert series and returning weekly lunchtime concerts. The lunchtime concerts and My Myra events truly place Bishopsgate Institute as the destination to hear the sound of history in London.

Myra the Steinway - official Twitter: @MyraTheSteinway

About Bishopsgate Institute

For over 120 years, Bishopsgate Institute has been a home for debate and performance, learning and enquiry and independent thought. We offer courses, workshops, talks and tours in subjects as diverse as London history, feminism, languages, Ballroom dancing, film studies, photography and creative writing. Our historic library, special collections and archives cover a variety of topics which explore radical, social, labour, feminist and LGBTQ+ history in London. The Institute is an oasis in the middle of a frantic city which provides you with the rare chance to explore, escape, research or relax.

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