

# SITUATIONS

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## ANNIKA KAHRS A CONCERT FOR THE BIRDS

Artist Annika Kahrs invites you to take a seat amidst this audience of songbirds for a recital of Franz Liszt's *Preaching to the Birds* on the hour every hour. Liszt's composition was inspired by the folkloric story of St. Francis of Assisi – the beggar-friar who gave a sermon to, and was understood by, a flock of birds. What is of significance in this story is that St. Francis believed that not only humans, but also the entire animal world, had the ability to understand each other.

**A Concert for the Birds** is Annika Kahrs' first artwork staged outside a gallery or museum. It is a development of the German artist's interest in music as a universal language, a means of transforming human and animal behaviour and creating intimacy in public situations.

This chapel is the only remaining building of the 13th Century Hospital of Saint Mark which provided food and care for one hundred poor people every day for over 300 years. **A Concert for the Birds** is commissioned for the Bristol Art Weekender by Situations, the Bristol-based arts producer who support artists to produce extraordinary ideas in unexpected places.

Watch an interview with Annika Kahrs and performers and find out about Situations' projects at [situations.org.uk](http://situations.org.uk).

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

**Annika Kahrs** (b. 1984, Germany) often takes musical ideas as the starting point for artworks that examine connections between language and emotion. She studied under Andreas Slominski and Jeanne Faust in Hamburg and Harun Farocki in Vienna. She has been awarded numerous prizes including the George-Maciunas-Förderpreis and has exhibited at venues including Hamburger Kunsthalle, 2013; Kunstraum München, 2013 and KW Institute for Contemporary Art, 2012. *A Concert for the Birds* is her first public art commission in the UK.

## **THE PIANISTS**

**Jean Hasse** composes for films, concert soloists, ensembles, festivals and special events and is Tutor for the MA Composition for Film and Television Course at the University of Bristol.

**Paul Israel** gained his Masters of Arts Degree in Piano Performance from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in 2013. He was awarded the Jacobson Recital Prize and the John Roberts Award for Music (both for Outstanding Recital performances of Beethoven and Liszt).

**A Concert for the Birds** is supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

## **THANKS**

We are grateful to Marek Barden and the Lord Mayor's Chapel for their help and support in staging *A Concert for the Birds*. Thanks to bird owners Bob Allen, Roger Tippet, Gail Masters, Juliette Elliott, Bristol Budgerigar Society, Severn Counties Foreign and British Bird Society and Nibley Bird Farm. We thank Bristol Zoo and University of Bristol for their invaluable advice, and our team of veterinarians who have ensured the welfare of the birds at all times.

## **A NOTE FROM OUR BIRDS**

We're please to meet you but *please* don't touch our cages. We are animals and we may bite or scratch if we get scared. Parents – do keep an eye on your young ones. To find out more about us, please ask our team of ambassadors. We hope you enjoy our concert.

To find out more about what's happening across the city as part of the Bristol Art Weekender, visit [bristolartweekender.co.uk](http://bristolartweekender.co.uk)

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