Lunchtime Concert:
Heidi Rolfe and Benjamin Frith

Monday 19th October 1:10pm, Firth Hall

PERFORMANCE
VENUES
CONCERTS

The Planets Suite by Holst, arr. Nora Day and Vally Lasker

1. Mars - The Bringer of War
2. Venus- The Bringer of Peace
3. Mercury- The Winged Messenger
4. Jupiter- The Bringer of Jollity
5. Saturn- The Bringer of Old Age
6. Uranus- The Magician
7. Neptune- The Mystic

The Planets Suite forms the bedrock of the Orchestral and Two piano repertoire. As such a famous work we don't look through to the two women who made it all possible. Nora Day and Vally Lasker were invaluable to Holst, playing through his work for two pianos as part of the compositional process; his trust in Day and Lasker was unfailing.

Their arrangement of this work for four hands on one piano is a remarkable achievement and an incredible feat of musicianship, endorsed by Holst himself. The work of these two remarkable women has largely gone unnoticed and unrecognised. We hope to shine a light on their talent and musicianship in the incredible arrangement of this iconic work.

Heidi Rolfe

As member of the exciting and esteemed Frith Rolfe Piano Duo, Heidi performs two piano repertoire and four hand works in recitals throughout the UK and abroad with her husband, Steinway Artist Benjamin Frith. The Frith Rolfe Duo received the honour of invitation to give a complete Piano Duo Day at Wigmore Hall and have appeared at many of the UK's leading Festivals and venues. Much in demand their performances are renowned for their synchronicity, insight, intensity and sheer impact of spontaneity. Double Piano Concerto performances and collaboration with CBSO Players have run alongside Heidi's solo performances and broadcasts for BBC Radio 3.

As an advocate of contemporary music, Heidi performed and tutored works by György Kurtág at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival where she also gave the World Premiere of Tarot Conway's Premiere Piano Concerto. Later this year brings the release of 'Trinitas', an album of solo and four hand works by Martin Ellerby. Future recording projects include works for two pianos and the latter part of the year sees a recording and recital of works by Delius; being sponsored by the Delius Society to promote the works of this British composer.

Taking musical guidance from the late Dame Fanny Waterman and having the privilege to work with the legendary and inspirational Andre Gavrilov, Heidi continues to develop her musical insights and enjoys sharing her knowledge. Invited as a Faculty member at Chetham's International Piano Summer School this year Heidi is also a Main Panel Examiner for the ABRSM.

In formative years Heidi spent time spent riding racehorses in the UK and Italy. Returning to her musical studies and completing an MA in Piano Performance with Sally Ann McLeod, Heidi was singled out for many concerto performances and was awarded the gift of a Grand Piano. Heidi is a published composer (Stainer and Bell).

Benjamin Frith

Steinway Artist Benjamin Frith is one of the most versatile, respected and engaging pianists in the UK. A prolific recitalist and recording artist with over 80 recordings - from Scarlatti to MacMillan - and many acclaimed reviews, Frith is at the forefront of the craft of music making.

Gold Medal winner of the Artur Rubinstein Piano Masters International Competition, Tel Aviv, and Top Prize Winner in the Busoni International Piano Competition, Frith has performed with many of the world's finest orchestras and conductors. Zubin Mehta with the IPO and Mosche Atzmon with the Warsaw Philharmonic amongst some of Frith's many memorable musical experiences.

Renowned for his critically acclaimed recordings, including a classical charttopping John Field Piano Concerto cycle, Gramophone 'Disc of the Year' withC.V.Stanford's 2nd Piano Concerto and Schumann Davidsbundler Op. 6 winning top recommendation in Radio 3 'CD Review'. In high demand as both soloist and chamber musician, Frith enjoys a busy and versatile career. As pianist in the Gould Piano Trio he has toured extensively throughout North America; and as guest pianist in the illustrious Nash Ensemble he has

performed and recorded (Hyperion) to critical acclaim. June 2025 saw the Naxos release of The Essential Benjamin Frith album.

Solo tours have taken Frith to America, Europe, the Middle and Far East and Festival appearances include Edinburgh, Aldeburgh, Kfar Blum, Lofoten,Kuhmo and NCPA India. Upcoming solo tours to Japan. Current recording projects include the complete solo piano music of British composer Martin Ellerby and a Marschner Piano Trio cycle for Naxos.

Benjamin Frith was a life student of the late Dame Fanny Waterman and lives in Yorkshire with his wife and piano duo partner, Heidi Rolfe.

Coming up next

We've got loads of great events coming up, you can visit our website for full details - www.performancevenues.group.shef.ac.uk

Of these Folk & Access Folk Celebration

Thursday 5th November, 2026
£11-17.50, Daytime event free
Firth Hall

Two events – a daytime exhibition with talks and an evening concert, celebrating the Access Folk project.

Presented by Sound Roots and supported by Access Folk at the University of Sheffield, this special event brings research and creativity together through songs, reflections and musical responses. Drawing on the project's findings, each artist offers a distinctive perspective on belonging, participation and evolving folk singing traditions

Rush Hour Concerts: Antony Clare

Wednesday 28th October, 2026
Free
Firth Hall

Four very different takes on the world of musical minimalism.

Music by composers who grasp one mood and see how far they can take it. Hypnotic, meditative, violent, lyrical, contemplative, dramatic.

Free Concerts on campus

Throughout term time we run free informal recitals and events in Firth Hall, including visiting guests and the performances from the talented students from the Department of Music.

These events are free to attend and are performed at lunch time and rush hour, which we believe make the events accessible for everyone to enjoy. To find out more about these events and to reserve your ticket, head to our website.

Monday 26th October, 2026	Lunchtime Concert – Performances from our Students	Firth Hall	1:10pm
Wednesday 28th October, 2026	Rush Hour Concert – Antony Clare	Firth Hall	5:45pm
Monday 2nd November, 2026	Lunchtime Concert – Performances from our Students	Firth Hall	1:10pm
Monday 16th November, 2026	Lunchtime Concert – Performances from our Students	Firth Hall	1:10pm
Monday 23rd November, 2026	Lunchtime Concert – Composition Special	Firth Hall	1:10pm
Wednesday 25th November, 2026	Rush Hour Concert – New Music Ensemble	Firth Hall	5:45pm
Monday 30th November, 2026	Lunchtime Concert – Historically informed performances	Firth Hall	1:10pm
Monday 7th November, 2026	Lunchtime Concert – Historically informed performances	Firth Hall	1:10pm
Monday 14th November, 2026	Lunchtime Concert – Historically informed performances	Firth Hall	1:10pm