

Piano Day at The National Gallery

The 8th annual Piano Day will be hosted at The National Gallery in London's Trafalgar Square on the 29th March 2023. The art museum's inestimable history has had links to the piano since the Second World War when famed classical pianist Dame Myra Hess organised almost 2,000 free lunchtime concerts to boost the morale of Londoners during a period of 'cultural black-out'.

The Piano Day event itself was conceived in 2015 at the behest of German classical and electronic composer Nils Frahm after creating the album 'Solo' to raise funds for piano maker David Klavins to build the Klavins M450 - one of the world's largest grand pianos. Looking for a specific occasion to mark the album's giveaway, Frahm partnered with Float PR to create an event that would celebrate the instrument's centuries-old history and encourage others to participate in a variety of piano-related projects. To date, the event has highlighted the piano's development within a berth of diverse musical genres including dance, grime and beatboxing.

"If I could be proud of something, then it's being responsible for an annual celebration of the piano." – Nils Frahm

This year's Piano Day is particularly meaningful for Float PR founder Sofia Ilyas: "As a Pakistani woman from Cardiff studying art A-level, the National Gallery was always a huge and iconic building to me. I was in awe when I went to visit many years later, yet now I'm hosting an event there and representing my community. I hope other young South Asian women will see what I'm doing and be inspired to do the same."

Held on the 88th day of the year in celebration of and reference to the 88 keys on a standard piano, recent Piano Day live concerts and online events have been held at global locations such as Melbourne, Sacramento and Copenhagen. This year's event, meanwhile, aims to exhibit London's diversity at its best, as Ilyas explains: "The National Gallery event will have to be more restrained this year as we need to be careful of the museum's paintings. Still, I have seized the opportunity to showcase London's artistic diversity, inviting performers such as experimental house artist [Yaw Evans](#), contemporary classical pianist [Karim Kamar](#) and Japanese electronic musician [Hinako Omori](#)."

Installation artist, educator and beekeeper [Lily Hunter Green](#) will also underscore Piano Day's ability to demonstrate the instrument's diversity and scope. Performing Bee Composed - a new work intended to raise the profile of the diminishing numbers of bees in our natural environment, Hunter Green will play an original piano composition while playing back bee sounds alongside interrelated imagery.