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| barbican | **The Barbican has announced details of *Propaganda* – a weekend of music, art and spoken word, curated by jazz artist Shabaka Hutchings**  ***Propaganda*** **A weekend of music, art and spoken word curated by Shabaka Hutchings** Friday 8 – Sunday 10 May 2020Barbican Hall & foyers, LSO St Luke’s, Milton Court Concert Hall, St Giles’ CripplegateTickets £10 – 20, plus free events Produced by the BarbicanOn sale to Barbican Members on Thursday 30 January 2020On general sale on Friday 31 January 2020[Find out more](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/series/propaganda-a-weekend-curated-by-shabaka-hutchings)  One of the foremost proponents of the current British jazz scene, Guildhall School of Music & Drama alumnus, saxophonist, clarinettist and band leader **Shabaka Hutchings** curates *Propaganda* – a Barbican weekend of music, art, spoken word and some very special collaborations. The music programme will include an eclectic mix of jazz, improv and experimental elements, electronica, Caribbean sounds and African traditions from South Africa, Ghana, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. **Shabaka Hutchings says**: “The inspiration for the programme and artists I’ve chosen for the weekend is propaganda. I’ve tried to find a point of intersection between my practice as an artist and an abstract idea of what propaganda entails: a directed means of altering the lens by which large groups of people process the information that determines the parameters of their imaginative reality. The political becomes artistic and the artistic becomes political.“The aim of each work chosen to be performed over the course of the weekend is to broaden our capacity to feel and to rekindle the energy needed to see the world with the potentiality of dreaming new futures and applying ourselves to action when we exit the concert hall.”There will be seven ticketed sessions across the Barbican Hall, Milton Court Concert Hall, LSO St Luke’s and St Giles’ Cripplegate, plus a non-ticketed programme over the weekend in the Barbican foyers curated in collaboration with **Skin Deep**;plus free post-show sets on the Barbican’s ClubStage on Friday and Saturday nights. **Highlights** of the weekend include:  * **Shabaka Hutchings** performing alongside **Sons of Kemet** and **Britten Sinfonia + Mantombi Matotiyana** with **Dizu Plaatjies**
* **Sofiane Saidi & Mazalda + King Ayisoba**
* **Danalogue: *Suite of the Elements***
* **The Rolling Calf**
* **Kit Downes Quintet**
* **Shabaka & the Ancestors + Maâlem Houssam Guinia + Anthony Joseph**
* A programme of **free events** created by **Skin Deep**
* Post-show ClubStage performances on Fri and Sat by **DJ Noss** and **Ammar 808**

**FULL PROGRAMME DETAILS BELOW** **Skin Deep** Fri 8 – Sun 10 May 2020, Barbican Level GFREEThe *Propaganda* weekend features a non-ticketed programme in the Barbican foyers created by **Skin Deep**. This will include a contribution from interdisciplinary design collective **RESOLVE** with further programme details tba. A creative powerhouse that is redefining culture, amplifying voices of colour through discussions of race, politics and activism, Skin Deep is an online platform, a biannual print publication and a curator of live events. Telling the stories others don’t, they collaborate with creatives, musicians, writers, artists and activists to produce and platform original, thought-provoking, fresh and accessible content. Produced by the Barbican **Friday 8 May 2020****PROPAGANDA SESSION ONE Shabaka Hutchings with Sons of Kemet and Britten Sinfonia + Mantombi Matotiyana with Dizu Plaatjies** Fri 8 May 2020, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm Tickets £17.50 – 20 plus booking feeThe *Propaganda* weekend kicks off with an exciting double-bill featuring octogenarian South African Xhosa singer and traditional master bow and harp player (uhadi, umrhubhe, isitolotolo) **Mantombi Matotiyana** in what will be her **first London appearance**. She will give a solo, stripped-down performance, accompanied only by traditional African multi-instrumentalist **Dizu Plaatjies**. The son of a Xhosa healer and founder and former leader of South Africa’s internationally celebrated marimba group, Amampondo, Plaatjies rediscovered Matotiyana when they met at his father's house, and she has since featured on several of his albums. Her solo debut album *Songs of Greeting, Healing and Heritage* came out in 2019. The second half of the concert features a performance of **Aaron Copland’s Clarinet Concerto**, which was commissioned and premiered by Benny Goodman, performed here by Shabaka Hutchings and Barbican Associate Ensemble **Britten Sinfonia**. The evening concludes with a performance of Hutchings’ orchestral suite ***Babylon*** *–* an amalgamation of jazz, minimalist classical music and electronica – performed by Shabaka Hutchings, his band **Sons of Kemet** and Britten Sinfonia. Produced by the Barbican[Find out more](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/propaganda-session-one-sons-of-kemet-britten-sinfonia)**DJ Noss** Fri 8 May 2020, Barbican ClubStage, Level -1, post-show FREE The post-show ClubStage event on Friday night is an extended DJ set by Martiniquan **DJ Noss**, featuring live ancestral Bèlè drumming and Noss’s eclectic mix of electronic music, bridging the gap between the musical styles of Africa and her diasporas. Through his music, DJ Noss tells his version of the story of Martinique, summoning the past, redefining the present and imagining the future.  Produced by the Barbican [Find out more](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/propaganda-session-one-sons-of-kemet-britten-sinfonia) **Saturday 9 May 2020****PROPAGANDA SESSION TWO Sofiane Saidi & Mazalda + King Ayisoba** Sat 9 May 2020, LSO St Luke’s, 2pm Tickets £12.50 plus booking fee*Propaganda* Session Two features a solo set from Ghanaian traditional musician **King Ayisoba** who is a master of the kologo (a two-stringed lute instrument). Renowned for his trademark vocal sound and fierce, uncompromising music, The Wire magazine described him as ‘the style’s undisputed trailblazer’, who is bringing the kologo sound to great popularity both in Ghana and abroad. The evening then continues with Algerian raï singer **Sofiane Saidi** – who has been called “the prince of raï 2.0” as he takes the classic raï genre and sparks it up for the 2020s – performing alongside his band **Mazalda**. Together they create a fresh take on the music, which fuses Arabic and Algerian folk elements with Western rock. Saidi’s and Mazalda’s album *El Ndjoum* came out in 2018. Produced by the Barbican[Find out more](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/propaganda-session-two-sofiane-saidi-mazalda) **PROPAGANDA SESSION THREEDanalogue: Suite of the Elements**Sat 9 May 2020, St Giles’ Cripplegate, 5pm Tickets £10 plus booking feeProducer (The Comet is Coming, Snapped Ankles, Alabaster Deplume, Flamingods) and keyboard player **Dan Leavers** aka Danalogue presents his new spiritual project ***Suite of the Elements*** as part of *Propaganda*. Most known for his synthesiser and production work in Mercury Nominated trio The Comet is Coming, this project sees Danalogue write in a new context. A composition for church organ, tape loops, drums, gongs, percussion and flute, the piece explores the qualities and atmospheres of the ancient hermetic elements: Water, Earth, Air, Fire and Aether. The work contains influences of minimalism, jazz and psychedelic music. **Danalogue** (organ, piano) will be joined on stage by **Betamax** (drum kit, percussion), **Rosanna Ter-Berg** (flute, percussion), **Cathy Eastburn** (gongs & singing bowls) and **Raimund Wong** (cassette tape loops and effects). Danalogue returns to the Barbican’s contemporary music programme following his participation in Video Jam x Basquiat in 2018.Produced by the Barbican[Find out more](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/propaganda-session-three-danalogue-suite-of-the-elements) **PROPAGANDA SESSION FOUR** Sat 9 May 2020, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm Tickets £17.50 – 20 plus booking feeDetails for PROPAGANDA SESSION FOUR to be announced in due course. **Ammar 808**Sat 9 May 2020, Barbican ClubStage, Level -1, post-show FREE **Ammar 808** is a project produced and developed by acclaimed Tunisian producer and arranger **Sofyann Ben Youssef** (Bargou 08, Kel Assouf), which takes audiences into the dark realms of North African futurism. Here they will present a live electronic set. **Sunday 10 May 2020****PROPAGANDA SESSION FIVE The Rolling Calf** Sun 10 May 2020, Milton Court Concert Hall, 2pm Tickets £12.50 plus booking fee*Propaganda* Session Five sees a set by **The Rolling Calf**– a black power trio featuring vocalist **Elaine Mitchener**, saxophonist **Jason Yarde** and bassist **Neil Charles**. Their avant-garde performances combine texts by revolutionary African-Diasporic thinkers with collective electroacoustic improvisation.Produced by the Barbican[Find out more](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/propaganda-session-five-the-rolling-calf) **PROPAGANDA SESSION SIX Kit Downes Quintet**Sun 10 May 2020, St Giles’ Cripplegate, 5pm Tickets £10 plus booking feeComposer, pianist and organist **Kit Downes** plays a set alongside a small ensemble featuring **Lucy Railton** (cello), **Tom Challenger** (sax), **Ingebjørg Loe Bjørnstad** (vocals) and **Phelan Burgoyne** (drums). Presenting material from his second record for ECM, *Dreamlife of Debris* (2019), Downes creates beautifully modulating soundscapes – from quiet meditations to menacing drones.The new album, which was inspired by W.G. Sebald’s book *The Rings of Saturn*, carries forward the story that began on the first album, *Obsidian*, extending and developing its processes and core ideas. But where *Obsidian* was (almost exclusively) a solo church organ album, part of Kit’s plan for *Dreamlife*was to put the organ in a broader context, and also to bring the piano into the larger compositional picture. Produced by the Barbican[Find out more](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/propaganda-session-six-kit-downes-quintet) **PROPAGANDA SESSION SEVEN Shabaka & the Ancestors+ Maâlem Houssam Guinia+ Anthony Joseph** Sun 10 May 2020, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm Tickets £17.50 – 20 plus booking feeThe final session as part of the *Propaganda* weekend sees a set by Moroccan Gnawa musician **Maâlem Houssam Guinia** who returns to the Barbican’s music programme following a collaboration with producer James Holden in 2016. The closing set comes from **Shabaka & the Ancestors**, presenting new material from their upcoming second album. The evening also features spoken word contributions from poet and musician **Anthony Joseph** who returns to the Barbican following his *Windrush: A Celebration* project as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival in 2018. Produced by the Barbican[Find out more](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/propaganda-session-seven-shabaka-and-the-ancestors) **ENDS** **Notes to Editors** **Shabaka Hutchings** London-born and Barbados-bred Shabaka Hutchings has established himself as a central figure in the London jazz scene, which is enjoying its greatest creative renaissance since the breakthroughs of Joe Harriott and Evan Parker in the 1960s. Hutchings has a restlessly creative and refreshingly open-minded spirit, playing in a variety of groups, most notably: **Sons of Kemet**, **The Comet is Coming**, and **Shabaka & the Ancestors**, whichhe distinguishes less by the music they make than by the different combination of personalities. Hutchings embraces influences from the sounds of London’s diverse club culture, including house, grime, jungle, and dub. He studied classical clarinet at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.[Find out more](http://www.shabakahutchings.com/biography/) **Artists’ curated weekends at the Barbican**Previous artists’ curated weekends at the Barbican have included Nico Muhly’s *A Scream And An Outrage* (2013); *Explorations: The Sound of Nonesuch Records*, celebrating the 50th birthday of the label (2014); *Mountains and Waves: Bryce Dessner and New American Music* (2015), Nils Frahm’s *Possibly Colliding* (2016) and Max Richter and Yulia Mahr’s *Sounds and Visions* (2018).  Barbican Box Office: 0845 120 7550[www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk/)**Press Information** For any further information, images, to arrange interviews or review tickets, please contact the Barbican’s music communications team: **Annikaisa Vainio-Miles, Senior Communications Manager** t - +44 (0)20 7382 7090e – annikaisa.vainio-miles@barbican.org.uk **Sabine Kindel, Communications Manager**t - +44 (0)20 7382 6199e – sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk**Edward Maitland Smith, Communications Officer**  t - +44 (0)20 7382 6196e – Edward.MaitlandSmith@barbican.org.uk**Etan Kinsella, Communications Assistant** t - +44 (0)20 7382 6138e – etan.kinsella@barbican.org.uk**About the Barbican**A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](http://www.barbican.org.uk/) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over a million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](https://www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/our-people/careers) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas 1, 2 and 3, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, public spaces, a library, the Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2019/event/conservatory), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](http://lso.co.uk/); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](https://www.bbc.co.uk/symphonyorchestra); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](http://www.aam.co.uk/) and [Britten Sinfonia](http://www.brittensinfonia.com/), Associate Producer [Serious](http://www.serious.org.uk/), and Artistic Partner [Create](http://createlondon.org/). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](http://www.boyblueent.com/site/), [Cheek by Jowl](http://www.cheekbyjowl.com/), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](http://drumworks.co.uk/) and [Michael Clark Company](http://www.michaelclarkcompany.com/). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](https://www.laphil.com/) are the Barbican’s International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](https://www.aco.com.au/) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court, and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](http://www.jazz.org/JLCO/) are International Associate Ensemble.  Find us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/BarbicanCentre) | [Twitter](https://twitter.com/barbicancentre) | [Instagram](http://www.instagram.com/barbicancentre) | [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/barbicanlondon) | [Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/user/barbicancentre) |