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Barbican announces plans to livestream concerts from the Barbican Hall

The Barbican today announced that, despite a cancelled concert season in the autumn, live music will return to the Centre after the summer – but in a different form.

The ongoing situation with COVID-19 and the current Government guidelines mean that the Barbican and its partners have had to cancel all planned autumn 2020 concerts, ranging from 1 September to 14 December.

During its temporary closure, the Barbican has increased its **digital content offer**, attracting a growing number of new visitors to its <u>Read</u>, <u>Watch</u>, <u>Listen</u> section. This section features a curated mix of playlists, weekly podcasts, films, videos, talks and articles that have enabled audiences to continue to enjoy the Centre's international programme.

Now the Barbican's digital offer is taking a significant new step forward in the form of concerts that will be **streamed live from the Barbican Hall**. From October to December, a newly programmed series of concerts will take place in the Hall and be streamed on a pay-per-view basis. The new livestreamed concert programme will feature the Centre's resident and associate orchestras as well as a hand-picked line-up of artists. Depending on the Government's advice at the time, the Barbican will bring reduced **live audiences** back to the Barbican Hall for some of these events, once it is safe and permitted to do so.

Huw Humphreys, Barbican's Head of Music says:

"It has been heart-breaking for us to have to cancel our planned autumn concerts, something we were so looking forward to presenting with our partners, and for our audiences. But at the same time, it's reassuring to be able to say that live music will return to the Barbican this autumn – just not in the same way as we had planned. Instead, we will present a series of one-act concerts which represent the full spectrum of the Barbican's music offer across classical, jazz, folk, electronica and more, devised with artists with whom we have a close relationship. Plans are still under development, but the programme will feature performances from our family of orchestras: our resident **London Symphony Orchestra** with **Sir Simon Rattle**, our associate **BBC Symphony Orchestra** with **Sakari Oramo**, and our associate ensemble **Britten Sinfonia**. We will mark the **EFG London Jazz Festival** with performances in collaboration with our associate producer **Serious**, and feature an eclectic range of other artists who will be announced nearer the time. This autumn concert series aims to support artists and our partners in the music industry, while making sure we're able to welcome audiences – first digitally and we hope eventually physically – back to the Hall."

Artists, schedules and details of the autumn concert series will be announced nearer the time. All concerts will be subject to Government guidance at the time.

Everyone who has booked a ticket for the cancelled autumn concerts is eligible for a full refund or ticket credit and will also be able to convert their ticket to a donation. To support the Barbican in reopening and offering the widest possible audience access to culture and creativity, donations can be made at https://www.barbican.org.uk/join-support Audiences are also being asked to companies</u> to support them through these difficult times.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Press Information

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BARBICAN REOPENING INFORMATION

The Barbican reopened its Art Gallery and Conservatory on Monday 13 July 2020 and will welcome visitors back to The Curve on Tuesday 11 August 2020. In line with government guidelines, new safety measures are in place including operating at reduced capacity, timed entry slots to ensure a safe flow of visitors through the space, with tickets needing to be booked online at <u>barbican.org.uk</u> in advance of a visit.

Details of when the Barbican's other venues and public spaces will reopen will be announced in due course. Everyone who has booked a ticket for a cancelled or postponed Barbican event is eligible for a full refund. Information on how to claim this is published <u>here</u>. Venue hire will also resume in the future, in accordance with government guidance.

The Barbican is encouraging audiences to <u>make a donation</u> so it can keep investing in the artists and organisations with whom it works. Audiences are also being asked to <u>consider donating to the Centre's Resident and Associate companies</u> to support them through these difficult times.

About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the <u>Barbican</u> 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 <u>staff</u> 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, <u>a glasshouse</u> <u>conservatory</u>, 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, <u>London Symphony Orchestra</u>; Associate Orchestra, <u>BBC Symphony Orchestra</u>; Associate Ensembles the <u>Academy of Ancient</u> <u>Music</u> and <u>Britten Sinfonia</u>, Associate Producer <u>Serious</u>, and Artistic Partner <u>Create</u>. Our Artistic Associates include <u>Boy Blue</u>, <u>Cheek by Jowl</u>, Deborah Warner, <u>Drum Works</u> and

<u>Michael Clark Company</u>. The <u>Los Angeles Philharmonic</u> are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the <u>Australian Chamber Orchestra</u> are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court, and <u>Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra</u> are International Associate Ensemble.

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