

BARBICAN ANNOUNCES A CONCERT CURATED BY BRITISH-BAHRAINI TRUMPETER AND COMPOSER, YAZZ AHMED, WITH TUNISIAN AMERICAN SINGER AND PRODUCER EMEL & LEBANESE OUD PLAYER RABIH ABOU-KHALIL

Yazz Ahmed with Emel and Rabih Abou-Khalil
An evening of contemporary Arabic music
Tue 13 Dec 2022, 7:30pm, Barbican Hall
Tickets £12.50 – £25, plus booking fee

This December, the Barbican welcomes award-winning British-Bahraini trumpeter and composer **Yazz Ahmed**, Tunisian-American singer songwriter and producer **Emel**, and Lebanese Oud player **Rabih Abou-Khalil** for a curated evening of contemporary Arabic music.

Yazz Ahmed draws on her mixed heritage, fusing jazz, Khaleeji music and electronica, to create a highly personal musical style.

For this special concert, she will present two pioneering artists from the Middle East and North Africa, who have found a new home in Europe — legendary Lebanese oudist, Rabih Abou-Khalil (whose album *Blue Camel* was a seminal influence on Yazz Ahmed) and Emel - avant-garde Tunisian-American singer and producer, whose soaring voice was a soundtrack to the Arab Spring and who has long been crafting a unique sonic universe, crushing stereotypes and forging a path all her own.

Performing with both their own ensembles and in collaboration with Yazz Ahmed and the Urban Soul Orchestra, within their sets Emel and Rabih Abou-Khalil will take the audience on a musical odyssey reflecting their shared experience of mixing MENA sounds and rhythms to create a contemporary, universal musical language.

Produced by the Barbican

Members presale Wed 14 Sept
General on-sale Fri 16 Sept
Tickets £12.50 – £25
[Find more info](#)

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Trumpeter and composer **Yazz Ahmed** has garnered global acclaim with her own brand of psychedelic-Arabic-jazz. Her career has included collaborations with Radiohead and Transglobal Underground, and commissions for Adult Swim and New York's Festival of New Trumpet Music. Winning multiple rave reviews for her albums, *La Saboteuse* (2017) and *Polyhymnia* (2019), *Downbeat Magazine* named her as an artist set to shape the future of jazz over the next decade. In 2020 she won two Jazz FM awards - 'Jazz Act of the Year' and 'Jazz Album of the Year', plus the Ivor Novello Award for Innovation in Composition.

Born in Tunis, and influenced by meetings with revolutionary artists such as Bob Dylan, Cheikh Imam, and Joan Baez, **Emel** began writing protest songs on her guitar which went on to form the body of her first album, *Kelmti Horra* ('My Word Is Free'). In 2011, she suddenly came to international prominence after a video of her performing her iconic title on Avenue Bourguiba went viral, in the midst of the Tunisian revolution. Resonating throughout all Arab countries, *Kelmti Horra* propelled Emel to icon status, earning her the title 'voice of the Arab Spring'. In 2016, she performed *Kelmti Horra* at the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony.

Lebanese composer, oud player and conductor **Rabih Abou-Khalil** has recorded with some of the greatest names in jazz, Arabic traditional musicians, classical string quartets, Armenian musicians, Fado singers and many more, with symphonic works

commissioned by the BBC Symphonic Orchestra and the Frankfurt Modern Ensemble. Considered a link between East and West and recognised for the quality of his orchestras, Abou-Khalil performs with a trio strongly steeped in the Mediterranean, with an accordionist from Rome, a drummer specialising in frame drums based in Turkey and an Albanian singer.

COMING UP SOON

- **Voices from the Lake + Grand River** ([Wed 21 Sep 2022, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **Terrain: The Earth Beneath My Feet - Portico Quartet Ensemble with Hannah Collins** ([Thu 29 September 2022, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- **Yahael Camara Onono: Masterclass** ([Thu 29 September 2022, Milton Court Concert Hall, 2pm](#))
- **Max Richter: Ambient Orchestra** ([Sat 1 & Sun 2 October, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- **Autechre + Zoviet France** ([Fri 7 Oct 2022, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm & 10pm](#))
- **Dave Longstreth / Dirty Projectors / s t a r g a z e: Song of the Earth** ([Sat 8 Oct 2022, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- **Ravi Coltrane: Cosmic Music** ([Tue 11 Oct 2022, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **Darbar Festival 2022** ([Thu 13 – Sun 16 October 2022](#))
- **Lykke Li: EYEYE** ([Sat 22 Oct 2022, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- **Caterina Barbieri** ([Wed 26 Oct 2022, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **Brian Eno: Space Music, A talk on sound issues** ([Sun 23 October 2022, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **Souad Massi + Ruba Shamshoum** ([Sat 29 Oct 2022, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- **Aoife O'Donovan + Donovan Woods** ([Wed 2 Nov 2022, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **Youssou N'Dour** ([Thu 3 Nov 2022, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- **EFG London Jazz Festival: International Anthem presents: CHICAGO X LONDON** ([Sat 12 Nov 2022, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- **EFG London Jazz Festival: MoodSwing: Joshua Redman, Brad Mehldau, Christian McBride and Brian Blade** ([Mon 14 Nov 2022, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **EFG London Jazz Festival: Henry Threadgill's Zoid and Anthony Braxton** ([Sun 13 Nov 2022, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- **EFG London Jazz Festival: Ankata Niogonfé: A night of Mande music and folklore / Yahael Camara Onono** ([Tue 15 Nov 2022, Milton Court, 7.30pm](#))
- **EFG London Jazz Festival: Yahael Camara Onono: Masterclass** ([Wed 16 Nov, Milton Court Concert Hall, 2pm](#))
- **EFG London Jazz Festival 2022: Matana Roberts: Coin Coin Chapter IV band + Slauson Malone 1** ([Thu 17 Nov 2022, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **The Staves** ([Tue 22 Nov, Barbican Hall, 8pm, plus new date added due to popular demand: Sat 3 Dec, 7:30pm](#))
- **Julia Holter: The Passion of Joan Arc** ([Fri 25 Nov 2022, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- **Lotic: Water** ([Sun 27 Nov 2022, Milton Court Concert Hall, 8pm](#))
- **Sō Percussion with Caroline Shaw** ([Sun 4 Dec 2022, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **Seven Septets** ([Tue 6 Dec 2022, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **Dillon** ([Sat 10 Dec 2022, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))

COMING UP IN 2023

- **Lucinda Williams** ([Sat 21 Jan 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- **Kayhan Kalhor + Erdal Erzincan** ([Sat 21 Jan 2023, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **The Hermes Experiment & Shiva Feshareki** ([Thu 26 Jan 2023, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))

- **Aldous Harding** ([Fri 28 – Sat 29 Apr 2023, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **Novo Amor + Jemima Coulter** ([Sun 30 Apr 2023, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **Musics from Summerisle / The Wicker Man – featuring Magnet, Gazelle Twin & Alasdair Roberts** ([Sat 24 Jun 2023, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))

COMING UP IN 2024

- **Erland Cooper: Carve the Runes Then Be Content With Silence** ([Sat 8 Jun 2024, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **Nils Frahm – *Music For London*** ([Thu 11 – Sun 14 July 2024, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) 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](#) 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](#), 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](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court, and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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