

Nov 23
Guide

barbican



Hello!

There's magic in the air this month as the five-star, multi-award winning *My Neighbour Totoro* returns to our stage. The Royal Shakespeare Company's record-breaking adaptation of Studio Ghibli's coming-of-age film is "a tender and remarkably beautiful show" (*Financial Times*) that will transport you to a world of natural wonder and fill you with joy. We hear from puppetry designer Basil Twist about how he brought the magical creatures, sprites and animals of the fantasy world to life on pages 5-6.

The natural world is what inspires Indian sculptor Ranjani Shettar, whose beguiling abstract works nestle among the abundant plants of our Conservatory. Explore this oasis in the City and discover her sculptures, which encourage you to slow down and observe each tree, flower and leaf in more detail. Find out how she created *Cloud songs on the horizon* on page 4. Also this month, the whole Centre will be alive with the sounds of jazz as we welcome back the EFG London Jazz Festival, created by our fantastic Associate Producer, Serious. Don't miss this chance to discover something new or see an unforgettable performance by a legend.

And if festivals are your thing, we have three celebrations of film in our Cinemas this month. Explore extraordinary work by Palestinian filmmakers with the Palestinian Film Festival, see the best of new music documentaries at Doc'n Roll, or dive into the world of animation at the London International Animation Festival. Each curated selection is a journey to places or perspectives you may never have encountered – and all from the comfort of your seat.

While you're here, make sure you see the multi-screen installation by poet, artist and filmmaker Julian Knyx in *The Curve* – it's a powerful work that really makes you think. Maybe it could be something to discuss with friends over a bite to eat at our rebranded restaurant, Barbican Bar and Brasserie. Enjoy!

Claire Spencer
CEO, Barbican

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A feast of film festivals

The British summer might be dominated by music festivals, but in November, we're all about the best of cinema.



Miúcha, *The Voice of Bossa Nova*, showing as part of Doc'n Roll.

This month we have a feast of film festivals, sharing some of the most exciting work from around the world, and unique opportunities to hear from directors and creatives themselves.

Up first is *Doc'n Roll*, the celebration of contemporary music documentaries. It covers a broad range of genres, with a particular focus on those outside the mainstream, delving deep into subcultures, labels, scenes and artists – with a focus on strong storytelling.

This tenth edition of the festival boasts a line-up including new documentaries on Brazilian bossa nova singer Miúcha, electronic music pioneer Pauline Oliveros and beloved British band The Zombies.

The London Palestine Film Festival showcases highly established filmmakers as well as fresh and emerging talent from Palestine and the diaspora, covering history, culture, politics and more.

We're hosting the opening Gala, a screening of *Tomorrow's Freedom*, by Georgia Scott and Sophia Scott, about Palestinian political leader, activist and political prisoner, Marwan Barghout. 'He's one of the most popular figures in Palestine,' says festival co-head Khaled Ziada. 'His case can be seen to represent all the political prisoners in Palestine. We wanted to highlight his case and what it represents more widely. It will be a hugely popular opening for the festival.'

He says the festival shares great films both from the Middle eastern country and which focus on it. 'We aim to share some of the best films from the last twelve months or so. But what we've also noticed recently is there's a huge appetite for films that were made in the past 20, 30, even 40 years ago. So we're also selecting older titles that you can't find on streaming services to show as part of the

festival. At the Barbican we'll be showing *Atash (Thirst)*, a fictional film made in 2004 by Tawfik Abu Wael, a fictional film telling the story of a man who illegally diverts water to his land, awakening the family's desire for freedom.'

Ziada explains that the film festival is important not only for sharing films about Palestine, but also for keeping the political situation in the country in the public eye.

'I've noticed in recent years our audience is getting younger, which we find very inspiring,' he says. 'It's great to see future generations interested in these kinds of films and the topics they raise – not only the new titles, but the older ones too.'

Accessibility is an important part of the festival, and there will be a number of Pay What You Can tickets.

Finally, in our fiesta of film festivals, we have London International Animation Festival. This wonderful annual event presents intelligent, entertaining and moving films from around the world. From stop-motion to abstract films, personal stories, tragedy, comedy, documentary and much more, it's a visual feast.

Highlights of this year's festival include *Disrupting the Narrative*, celebrating contemporary animation by Black filmmakers, and *Figures in Focus*, showcasing works by women and non-binary animators'.

Doc'n Roll

26 Oct-4 Nov

London International Animation Festival

24 Nov-3 Dec

Palestine Film Festival

17 Nov-1 Dec

See page 11-12 for details

'This is music that shows I don't want to be labelled'

As the new Milton Court Artist-in-Residence, clarinettist Anthony McGill says he's excited to share a broad range of music he loves.

From becoming the first African-American musician to hold a principal role in the New York Philharmonic to performing at Obama's inauguration, clarinettist Anthony McGill has blazed a trail as one of classical music's most brilliantly multifaceted figures. Now, as the new Milton Court Artist-in-Residence, he's preparing to showcase the breadth of his musical tastes, as well as the versatility of the instrument he loves deeply.

'This collection of works demonstrates how I live in the world as a musician: I live in the past, in the present, and in between,' he tells us. 'Much of what I do as a musician – especially in my orchestral career – is I play whatever's in front of me. And that's wonderful, but now I get a chance to explore what it means to be an artist today. And what I particularly like is that I get to not label myself. I can be very comfortable playing Brahms, but I'm also happy playing [Pulitzer Prize-winning US composer] Anthony Davis and exploring what it means to be a person of today.'

'Some of the repertoire I've chosen are examples of things I've been playing over the last five or ten years that I love to play. They don't label me as a certain type of artist, but instead show me as someone that loves to explore music and is fascinated by interesting music, beautiful music, masterworks, lesser-known works, works that I think people should hear.'

This will be McGill's first solo foray into the UK, and he says he is looking forward to introducing all these different facets of his musicianship to audiences.

His opening concert will be the European premiere of *You Have The Right To Remain Silent* by Anthony Davis, performed with Britten Sinfonia. The African-American composer wrote the piece based on his experience of being stopped by police in a case of mistaken identity.

Davis tells us: 'I drew on this experience a few decades later when I came to write this work. I had been thinking about a post-modernist view of silence and what "you have the right to remain silent" actually means. That led me to consider the more abstract sense of how to activate silence, silent music and sudden changes in music. It was interesting process. I also liked the dynamic of the interaction of the orchestra with a solo instrument as like an interrogation.'

In a way I was taking something that was very emotional, and dealing with it in a more abstract way.'

Parts of the work are improvised, a new experience for McGill, and one he says 'stretched my boundaries as an artist and as a musician'. It's not the only new experience this piece offered: some parts of the music require him to play a contra-alto clarinet – a very deep-sounding, large instrument. 'It's a beast of an instrument, and I'd never played it before I first performed this work,' McGill says.

He says he also chose *You Have The Right...* because it speaks about themes that are very present today. 'It's able to speak to something that I had also been speaking to over the last few years. Anthony describes what it feels like to be unjustly accused or unjustly identified as someone that you're not. It deals with themes of identity, community, interrogation, justice, and lack thereof. These are themes that people can connect with; he wants the music to enable people to look inside and see that character and see if they can connect with the experiences of the character, even if they haven't had those experiences themselves.'

'I think that music always does that in a way, even if it doesn't have a particular story attached to it. It can tell a story. That's what makes music beautiful, interesting, and thought-provoking. So I hope that people may see me as an artist that is creatively minded and, in a way, a bit different. I could have started with Mozart's Clarinet Quintet. I love that too, but it's different and daring to open with this work. And it allows me to expand what it means to be a clarinettist in the world.'

He'll also be giving a Sunday afternoon recital with Michael McHale, with whom he has a longstanding relationship. They'll perform music by American composers James Lee III, Adolphus Hailstork, Leonard Bernstein, Jessie Montgomery and Aaron Copland.

'It's a combination of new and older work, but they're all fresh,' says McGill. 'It's an American programme, but in the greatest sense of the word, by which I mean it's very diverse in every way, with all different styles of composers. People tend to pigeonhole whole countries into one thing, but none of us fit into these boxes. So this programme allows us to explore the expressions, styles, identities and storylines these composers bring to their music.'

Anthony McGill and Britten Sinfonia
29 Nov
See page 14 for details

Anthony McGill Masterclass
30 Nov

Anthony McGill and Michael McHale
3 Dec



Anthony McGill will be Artist-in-Residence at Milton Court.

now

A new brew

Record producer Martin Terefe tells us about a homage to Miles Davis's towering album, *Bitches Brew*, which will be performed for the first time at the EFG London Jazz Festival.



London Brew

'For me, *Bitches Brew* is a rockstar album,' says record producer Martin Terefe. 'It shattered all ideas I had about what jazz was or could be. On the album, Miles Davis provided a stage for other musicians to break new ground and shine. He added his edge and flare, and in the end, he was the ultimate inspiration as a fearless musician and bandleader.'

So, when he was approached by Davis' estate's music publisher, Bruce Lampcov, to put together a project to mark the 50th anniversary of the album in 2020, he leapt at the chance.

Lampcov's idea was to bring together members of the new London jazz scene, including saxophonist Nubya Garcia, multi-instrumentalist Raven Bush, tuba player Theon Cross, guitarist Dave Okumu, and drummer Dan See, to produce a celebratory improvisatory work inspired by the iconic album, called *London Brew*.

But the pandemic hit plans for live performances and delayed the recording. So, by the time they all got together at North London's Church Studios in December 2020, the assembled musicians were chomping at the bit.

Terefe says most of the musicians involved hadn't been in a room making music live with other musicians for the best part of a year. So the vibe was pretty special. 'I think we all felt a lot of gratitude for just being able to be in a studio together. The vibe was at first searching, then open, and ultimately as we got to know each other - electrifying.'

'As we set out, the approach was to listen, to create space and to allow the musicians to flow with as little direction or interference as possible. I think we all quickly realised something special and quite magical was going on. When I started the mixing process, which included choosing which bits from three days of recording would become the album, I decided to look for great moments that felt like starting points and mix for the duration the music kept my attention. That eventually became eight 'songs' varying in length from three to 24 minutes.'

The recording was released in April, and this month the EFG London Jazz Festival presents the first opportunity to experience this incredible project live in our Hall.

Terefe says he can't wait to be finally bringing the project to our stage. 'It will be a whole new brew, with new ingredients and starting points,' he grins excitedly. 'Another journey into the unknown - this time in front of a live audience, and I think just about anything can happen!'

Presented by the Barbican's Associate Producer Serious, the EFG London Jazz Festival brings some of the world's greatest living jazz musicians to London, showcasing the breadth of the genre in all its glorious forms.

Discover incredible musicians performing in our Hall, in Milton Court and for free in our foyers. Among the highlights will be American drummer Makaya McCraven with the London Contemporary Orchestra, the boundary-crossing Hiromi, GRAMMY award-winning Sergio Mendes, singer Samara, Joy global music pioneer Charles Lloyd, saxophonist Joshua Redman, and Ethio-Jazz pioneer Mulatu Astatke. Plus, cellist, singer, and percussionist Abel Selaocoe is joined by our Resident Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, for an evening blending South African and European traditions.

EFG London Jazz Festival

10-19 Nov

See page 9-10 for details

Jazz on Screen

See page 12 for details

Finding the art in nature

Sculptor Ranjani Shettar shares why she finds nature such a source of inspiration for her work as we explore her new site-specific commission in the Conservatory.

Venture into our Conservatory and encounter the nature-inspired work of Indian sculptor Ranjani Shettar, whose installations interact with and complement this green oasis in the heart of the City. Using a variety of natural materials to create organic shapes that appear to float in mid-air, Shettar's sculptures were individually handcrafted in her studio in southern India. She tells us about *Cloud songs on the horizon*.

How does your work respond to, and interact with the Conservatory?

This Barbican commission was really exciting to me because it is a public green space. Since childhood I have lived surrounded by greenery which was further enhanced about 16 years ago when my husband and I moved from Bangalore to a remote village in Karnataka. So I am used to being surrounded by trees and plants, which I love, but here at the Conservatory, it is a very different context. When I see greenery in the heart of a city like London, nature in an urban landscape presented excitement and challenges.

Since moving to the countryside, my relationship with nature has deepened. While my artmaking process is inspired by the things in my everyday life, I am able to pause and view the simplest and humblest facets of it with more intrigue and wonder. It has allowed me to nourish my inner child with sustained curiosity. I wanted to bring that with me into the Conservatory, the urban jungle. That was my starting point.

What can people see?

I enjoy creating and experiencing my works responding to their site. So when I visited the Conservatory, I noticed it has multiple viewing points from all the nooks and corners. So, I have created five different projects: two that hang over and interact with the two bodies of water, and three others. One is more intimate – you will discover it only from up close and see the textures and forms. Through two others, I explored very large scale and different perspectives. Until I conceptualised the space fully in my head, it just felt like one large, continuous space. But as I thought more it was more of separate environments merged into each other, very organically. So I conceived of the five works in their very individualised sites, each leading onto the next and so on.

Like much of your work, the sculptures in *Cloud songs on the horizon* are suspended – can you tell us how you developed that idea and why it's important to your work?

It is something that I've been working on over two decades now. When I started, my sculptures were on pedestals. But I was never happy with that form of presentation as it was limiting and static. I wanted to try to knock that

balance a little bit. That became precarious because my sculptures would be leaning over so much, they would be on the verge of losing balance. That's when I realised that my desire was to make them float and occupy the space that we humans occupy, which meant they had to come off the pedestal. I came upon the idea of suspending them in the air. The moment you do that, they start to move, creating so many permutations and combinations that installation becomes a bit of a challenge – albeit one that I really enjoy. They're ever-moving, and in doing so, they create a new perspective; it's like the sculpture is imbued with what I give it, but it also does something on its own. Bringing those two elements together creates a unique, intimate experience for each viewer.

Talk us through the materials you've used

I am drawn to wood. It has fibres, lines, character and also was a living thing at one point. Each piece of wood has a unique grain running through it and how it lends itself to carving. It almost reveals how it wants me to carve it a certain way, and I have to lend myself to it. I don't use wood cut from forests; I use repurposed materials. The other materials

I have used in the exhibition are stainless steel and fabric. The fabric is handmade and has a sensual quality while stainless steel acts as the armature, it's the 'bones', and it allows me to wrap around and create forms that are not possible with other sorts of materials.

Why nature is so important to your work

I feel like if we love something, we will care for it. I am not trying to make overt statements through my artwork as such, but make people pause for a moment and look at something with more intent and a bit more depth. It's not about romanticising nature but acknowledging its power and experiencing its beauty; think of the monsoon or lightning, it is very humbling. If I can achieve a bit of that, I am satisfied.

Cloud songs on the horizon

The Conservatory is open on selected dates
See page 7 for details

Ranjani Shettar's commission has been realised in partnership with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA)



Ranjani Shettar: *Cloud songs on the horizon* Installation view, Barbican Conservatory 2023. Courtesy Barbican Centre, KNMA, Ranjani Shettar © Max Colson / Barbican Art Gallery

A touch of magic

How award-winning puppeteer Basil Twist brought the spirits and animals of *My Neighbour Totoro* to life.



Satsuki (Ami Okumura Jones) in *My Neighbour Totoro*. Photo by Manuel Harlan © RSC, with Nippon TV.

My Neighbour Totoro is a magical tale filled with all manner of fantastical and real creatures, and there was certainly something magical in the air during the creation of the Royal Shakespeare Company's six-time Olivier award-winning adaptation you can see on our stage this winter.

Created by the RSC and Executive Producer Joe Hisaishi in collaboration with Improbable and Nippon TV, it tells the story of a wonderful summer in the lives of sisters Satsuki and Mei as they are transported to a long-forgotten realm of spirits, sprites, and natural wonder.

For puppetry designer and director Basil Twist, it was a particularly magical experience. The renowned theatre-maker – the only US graduate of acclaimed École Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette in France – says he was very excited to be involved with this production.

He was invited to join the team by director Phelim McDermott and adaptor Tom Morton-Smith and 'jumped in very enthusiastically, particularly because I'm a huge Japanophile,' he beams. 'I really got into it – the film, the story, the strangeness and the specialness of it.'

He says that while watching the film, he was struck by its beautiful animation before his mind started excitedly whirring with ideas for bringing the creatures to life through puppetry.

'As someone who loves Japan, I have a modest appreciation for Shinto and the idea of the spirit world in Japanese culture,' says Twist. 'Also, part of the reason I'm attracted to Japan as a puppeteer – and many puppeteers are – is that it's such an elevated art form there.'

McDermott (who worked with Twist on a production of *Aida* for the English National Opera) told us last year: 'The great thing about talking to soundtrack composer Joe Hisaishi and Nippon TV is they were very

clear that they wanted it to be theatrical. They were excited about things like the puppetry being very human, not mechanical. They care about making it a real play with a human story, but they also want the visual elements to have a humanity to them.

So, it was crucial to get the puppets right. Twist's award-winning productions *The Araneidae Show* and *Symphonie Fantastique* and his experience on Broadway with *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Addams Family* made him the perfect choice.

The pandemic struck at the start of development, but work on *My Neighbour Totoro* had to continue as best as possible. For Twist, this was where some of the magic of the production first shone on him.

'I normally live in New York, but – like many people did during the pandemic – I moved in with my family in San Francisco. So I went into their backyard, using my family

as puppeteers, operating the prototypes I created. That was so special – it was extraordinary to be able to do that, and to have that experience with my family.'

Everyone liked his early prototypes, and once again, some of that magical spirit in the air meant Twist had a unique opportunity that would normally never happen during the production of a show: he was able to workshop his designs on our stage.

'I happened to be working on an opera in Paris, even though it was in full lockdown. Because in France, an opera director for a national theatre was considered an "essential worker", I could work, even though there were no audiences. Because the Barbican was also closed, we had the opportunity to work on stage there. So I flew to London and quarantined for two weeks. Then, under strict Covid protocols, including daily testing and loads of hand sanitiser, we had two extraordinary workshops while everything else was closed. You would never normally be able to do that – the Barbican stage is just not available for workshops.'

Next, Twist turned to Jim Henson's Creature Shop to create the puppets. The legendary workshop of The Jim Henson Company, it has produced some of the

world's best-loved characters from *The Muppet Show*, *Fraggle Rock*, *The Dark Crystal*, *Labyrinth* and *Sesame Street*.

Twist says having worked with them before, he had no hesitation when approaching them. 'Knowing the heft of this film and the love that there is for it, it had to be right. I love the Hensons, and I knew that while I'm good at coming up with the concept and creating crude prototypes, I needed the finish to be perfect.'

He also worked with Mervyn Millar and his team, Significant Object (best known for their work on *War Horse*) to bring the puppets to life – not just Totoro and Catbus, but soot sprites, the goat and chickens.

'We struggled a little with the chicken puppets at the beginning, because the first iteration was too mechanical – we wanted them to have more freedom, that silly feeling of chaos. If you're going to create that, you have to invite the chaos in; you can't choreograph it. So how the chickens ended up is they're very lightweight inflatable balls that bounce around on a stick. The person holding the stick can move them, but they don't know if they'll bounce left or right, if they'll bounce eight times, or if they're going to bang into each other.

'The chaos is what we perceive as an object having life and spirit. It has a life of its own.'

Finally, it was time for the cast to meet their puppet co-stars. 'The first time the cast saw the puppets, it was incredible,' remembers Twist. 'For most of them, Totoro means so much; they have a deep, deep love for the film. So they were really proud and delighted to be in the production. But when we actually showed them the puppets, they went berserk. They lost it. I'll never forget it, because it was outrageously joyous.'

It's not just the experienced puppeteers who bring the puppets to life – the whole company is responsible for them. 'There's something extraordinary about this ensemble of people working together to tell this story. It's so true to the themes of the film, to the spirit of Totoro. There's a magic source in there that's spectacular to see.'

My Neighbour Totoro

21 Nov–23 Mar

See page 8 for details



Puppeteers handle the soot sprites in *My Neighbour Totoro*. Photo by Manuel Harlan © RSC, with Nippon TV.

Art & Design

Open now, Conservatory

Ranjani Shettar: Cloud songs on the horizon

A spectacular new site-specific commission by the Indian sculptor, in her first major institutional show in Europe. Featuring handcrafted, large-scale sculptures suspended across the entire Conservatory, created using techniques adapted from traditional Indian crafts. (Free)

Until Sun 11 Feb, The Curve

Julianknxx: Chorus in Rememory of Flight

Charting his year-long collaboration with Black choirs across European cities, Julianknxx's immersive film installation offers song and music as forms of resistance. A repeated refrain, 'we are what's left of us', transforms The Curve into a collective space, and the choir a metaphor for community. (Free)



Julianknxx, Production still of Chorus in Rememory of Flight, 2023.
© Studioknxx.



Judy Chicago, *Immolation* from *Women and Smoke*, 1972 Fireworks performance. Performed by Faith Wilding in the California Desert. © Judy Chicago/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo courtesy of Through the Flower Archives. Courtesy of the artist; Salon 94, New York; and Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco.

Until Sun 14 Jan 2024, Art Gallery

RE/SISTERS: A Lens on Gender and Ecology

This major new exhibition surveys the relationship between gender and ecology, exploring the link between the oppression of women and degradation of the planet. Uniting film, photography and performance by nearly 50 women or gender non-conforming artists, RE/SISTERS uplifts a woman-centred vision of nature and underscores how woman-led activism is at the forefront of advocating and caring for the planet. (£16*)

Mon 13 Nov, Conservatory

Members' Late: RE/SISTERS + Julianknxx

Join us after hours and get behind the scenes of RE/SISTERS and Julianknxx at an evening of art, talks, DJs, drinks and workshops.

Thu 16 Nov 7pm, Frobisher Auditorium 1

Sin Wai Kin and Planningtorock: manifesting alternate realities

Encounters

Join the Turner Prize-nominated artist Sin Wai Kin and singer-songwriter, producer and composer Planningtorock as they explore world building at the intersections of visual arts and music. (£15*)

Thu 23 Nov 7pm, Frobisher Auditorium 1

Ronan McKenzie and Mac Collins: ideation to realisation

Encounters

Join multidisciplinary artist Ronan McKenzie and artist and designer Mac Collins as they discuss their creative processes from ideation to realisation. (£15*)



For full programme information, including opening times, please visit barbican.org.uk

Members and Corporate Members get free entry to our Gallery. Join Young Barbican and get tickets for just £5

*Booking fees apply. Please see website for info. No fees on Young Barbican or in-person bookings.

Theatre & Dance



Mei (Mei Mac) in *My Neighbour Totoro*. Photo by Manuel Harlan © RSC, with Nippon TV.

1–4 Nov, The Pit

The PappyShow: 10th Birthday Pit Party

Join us for an evening of radical joy, celebrating bold and beautiful dance, music and the best of vibes with performances curated by this acclaimed theatre company.

21 Nov–23 Mar, Theatre

Royal Shakespeare Company / Joe Hisaishi: *My Neighbour Totoro*

Find your spirit with the “awe-inspiring” (*Time Out*) and “dazzling” (*Guardian*) *My Neighbour Totoro*, as this five-star, award-winning production returns for a strictly limited season this autumn.

21–25 Nov, The Pit

Rhiannon Faith Company: *Lay Down Your Burdens*

Restore your weary soul with this radically tender and immersive dance theatre premiere that invites you to explore the beauty of humanity and the eternal need for community and compassion.

Thu 23 Nov, Frobisher Auditorium 2

Members' Event: *Lay Down Your Burdens* Pre-Show Talk

Learn what it means to make socially-conscious dance theatre at this free Members' talk with Rhiannon Faith Company.



Rhiannon Faith Company: *Lay Down Your Burdens*
© Foteini Christofilopoulou.



You'll find a range of accessible events as part of our theatre and dance programme. See online for details.

Contemporary Music

All concerts take place in the Hall unless otherwise stated

Wed 1 Nov, 7.30pm, Milton Court

Sun-Mi Hong + Hyelim Kim

Part of K-Music Festival 2023

Acclaimed drummer Sun-Mi Hong returns for this year's K-Music festival with an extraordinary quartet comprising of jazz vocalist Song Yi Jeon, pianist Gee Hye Lee and daegeum player Hyelim Kim.

Fri 3 Nov 7.30pm, Milton Court

Guildhall Jazz Orchestra

Outstanding Jazz musicians from Guildhall School and Morley College Jazz Orchestra join forces to celebrate the music of American composer, arranger and trombonist Bill Russo.

Mon 6 Nov, 7.30pm, Milton Court

Hauschka

+Dobrawa Czocher

The BAFTA and Academy Award-winning composer Hauschka brings his distinctive piano music to Milton Court.

Wed 8 Nov, 7.30pm

Ryoji Ikeda presents Ultratronics

+Rachika Nayar

Renowned visual and sound artist Ryoji Ikeda performs the UK live debut of Ultratronics – a unique audiovisual concert based on his latest album.

Thu 9 Nov, 7.30pm

The Brand New Heavies

Live with the London Concert Orchestra

The platinum selling pioneers of London's Acid Jazz scene are back with an unmissable performance of their greatest hits.

Thu 9 Nov, 7.30pm, Milton Court

Matthew and the Atlas

British indie-folk artist Matthew Hegarty aka Matthew and the Atlas performs music from his new album *This Place We Live*.

13–18 Nov, Milton Court

Guildhall Jazz Festival

Drummer Ari Hoenig, pianist Nikki Yeoh and vocalist Zara McFarlane headline three days of free performances showcasing the creativity of Guildhall School's Jazz community, presented with EFG London Jazz Festival.

EFG London Jazz Festival

10–19 Nov 2023

Fri 10 Nov, 7.30pm

Mulatu Astatke

In his 80th year re-landscaping the jazz genre, the musician, composer and arranger coined as 'the father of Ethio-jazz' brings the spirit of Ethiopia to the Hall.

Sat 11 Nov, 7.30pm

Makaya McCraven & London Contemporary Orchestra: In These Times

The prolific American drummer and producer performs his boundary-pushing album *In These Times* with the London Contemporary Orchestra, conducted by Robert Ames.

Sun 12 Nov, 7.30pm, Milton Court

Joep Beving

Contemporary classical composer Joep Beving returns to his piano solo roots with *Hermetism*, performed as a live audio-visual performance in collaboration with contemporary artist, Boris Acket.

Sun 12 Nov, 7.30pm

Joshua Redman Group featuring Gabrielle Cavassa

The globally acclaimed saxophonist returns with a specially curated ensemble to perform music from his latest album *Where Are We*.

Mon 13 Nov, 7.30pm

Hiromi's Sonicwonder

With unrivalled creative energy that encompasses and eclipses the boundaries of jazz, classical and pop, Hiromi takes improvisation and composition to new heights of complexity and sophistication.

Tue 14 Nov, 7.30pm, Milton Court

Sam Gendel

In his debut London show, American saxophonist and music producer Sam Gendel performs his distinctive mix of experimental and ambient jazz.

Wed 15 Nov, 7.30pm

Sergio Mendes

Three-time GRAMMY Award-winner and Oscar-nominated musician Sergio Mendes brings his legendary sounds of Brazil to the Hall.

Thu 16 Nov, 7.30pm, Milton Court

The Harvest Time Project: A Tribute to Pharoah Sanders

An ensemble of pioneering jazz musicians celebrates the late, great Pharoah Sanders.



For full programme information, including artist line ups, please visit barbican.org.uk

Members and Corporate Members receive 20% off selected events. Join Young Barbican and get tickets on selected gigs for just £5, £10 or £15

*Booking fees apply. Please see website for info. No fees on Member, Young Barbican or in-person bookings.

Thu 16 Nov 8pm

LSO/Duncan Ward with Abel Selaocoe

Gary Carpenter *Dadaville*
Béla Bartók *Dance Suite*
Samuel Barber *Medea's Dance of Vengeance*
Abel Selaocoe *Four Spirits*

South African and European traditions meet in the transformative music of Abel Selaocoe, alongside folk and jazz-flecked music from Gary Carpenter and Bartók.

Fri 17 Nov, 7.30pm

Charles Lloyd Ocean Trio

+ Mette Henriette

After an incredible sold out performance in 2021, Charles Lloyd returns to the Hall with his new Ocean Trio comprising of pianist Gerald Clayton and guitarist Marvin Sewell.

Sat 18 Nov, 7.30pm

London Brew

Celebrate the epic re-imagining of Miles Davis' legendary album *Bitches Brew* in the first ever performance from British Jazz super group, London Brew.

Sun 19 Nov, 7.30pm

Samara Joy

Praised by the New York Times as the 'silky-voiced rising star' of jazz, GRAMMY Award-winning Samara Joy makes her Hall debut.

Tue 21 Nov, 7.30pm

Blanco White

+ tI k

With sensual songs that unfurl like spells, guitarist, singer and songwriter Blanco White creates a bewitching world with his folk music.

Sat 25 Nov, 8pm

This Is The Kit

Singer-songwriter and musician Kate Stables aka This Is The Kit is back, performing her greatest works alongside band members Rozi Plain, Jamie Whitby-Coles and Neil Smith.

Wed 29 Nov, 7.30pm

Leroy Hutson

+ Sheree Brown

Jump on the soul train and enjoy a stunning night of live music from this living R&B legend and his Magic Makers Band.



Makaya McCraven © Sulyiman



For full programme information, including artist line ups, please visit barbican.org.uk

Members and Corporate Members receive 20% off selected events. Join Young Barbican and get tickets on selected gigs for just £5, £10 or £15

*Booking fees apply. Please see website for info. No fees on Member, Young Barbican or in-person bookings.



Ridley Scott's *Napoleon*, starring Joachim Phoenix hits the big screen in November.

New Releases

Please note the new release schedule is subject to change. Titles marked # are yet to receive classification.

From Fri 3 Nov

How to Have Sex#

A trio of British teens head for a sun-soaked holiday that will prove to be one of the most eventful of their lives, in this Cannes 2023 award-winning feature debut.

From Fri 3 Nov

Fingernails#

Desperate to save her relationship, Anna (Jessie Buckley) turns to an opaque organisation who claim to be able to use science to produce romantic love. Also starring Riz Ahmed, Jeremy Allen White and Luke Wilson.

From Fri 10 Nov

Anatomy of a Fall#

When Sandra becomes the only suspect in the mysterious death of her husband, her son Daniel, who is blind, is put in an impossible position as the sole witness, in this Cannes 2023 Palme d'Or winner.

From Fri 10 Nov

The Marvels#

When Dar-Benn (Zawe Ashton), entangles the powers of Captain Marvel (Brie Larson), Monica Rambeau (Teyonah Parris) and Kamala Khan (Iman Vellani), the three must band together to save the universe.

From Fri 17 Nov

May December#

This drama from Todd Haynes (Carol) follows a couple as they are visited by an actress, preparing for her role in the film adaptation of their romance. Starring Julianne Moore and Natalie Portman.

From Fri 17 Nov

Saltburn#

Academy Award-winning writer-director Emerald Fennell creates a world of charm and seduction, which draws Oliver (Barry Keoghan) into the orbit of a young aristocrat over the course of an unforgettable summer.

From Fri 24 Nov

The Eternal Daughter#

Tilda Swinton stars as a mother and her daughter, who return to their old family home to find that the once-grand house carries a terrible secret. Written/directed by Joanna Hogg (*The Souvenir*).

From Fri 24 Nov

Napoleon#

Witness the inexorable rise of Napoleon Bonaparte (Joaquin Phoenix) from obscurity to Emperor of France in this captivating biopic from Ridley Scott (*Gladiator*, *Blade Runner*). Also starring Vanessa Kirby.

Special Events and Seasons

Thu 26 Oct – Sat 4 Nov

Doc'n Roll Film Festival

The tenth edition of the Festival brings five new music documentaries to our screens, including films focusing on bossa nova star Miúcha and British rock band The Zombies.

Tue 7 Nov, 6.30pm, Cinema 2

Jurassic Park + Presentation by Sandra Wachter

Science on Screen

Plans for a Dinosaur theme park go horribly wrong in this Academy Award-winning adventure. Join us for a presentation on the ethics of science and innovation before a screening of this 90s classic.

Presented in Partnership with the London Mathematical Laboratory

Sun 12 Nov, 2pm, Cinema 3

Don Quixote^{12A}

Royal Opera House Live:

Teeming with comedy, wit and an abundance of bravura choreography, Carlos Acosta's production brings the Spanish heat and romance of Cervantes' classic novel to life, and is a wonderful showcase for The Royal Ballet's Principal dancers.

Nov 17– 23, Cinema 1 & 2

London Palestine Film Festival

The festival returns, showcasing recently released titles alongside favourites from the archives. The 2023 edition opens with *Tomorrow's Freedom*, an intimate, transformative documentary capturing indefatigable campaigns for justice and freedom.



For programme information and dates and times of new release films visit barbican.org.uk

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Wed 29 Nov, 6.30pm Cinema 1

Pictures of Ghosts : London Premiere

Architecture on Film

Kleber Mendonça Filho (Bacurau, Aquarius) folds together personal and urban biography, architecture and filmmaking, to map his home town of Recife – through the lens of cinema, and its cinemas.

Sat 11–Tue 14 Nov, Cinema 2

Jazz On Screen

Films celebrating the relationship between jazz and cinema, coinciding with the EFG London Jazz Festival.

Thu 9 Nov, Cinema 2

New East Cinema

Join us for our latest screening in a our regular strand celebrating great new films from post-Communist and post-Soviet states from Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Sat 18 Nov, 5.55pm, Cinema 1

The Life and Times of Malcolm X ^{12A}

Met Opera Live

Anthony Davis's groundbreaking opera arrives at the Met, with new staging that imagines Malcolm as an everyman whose story transcends time and space. The newly revised score provides a layered, jazz-inflected setting.

Fri 24 Oct – Sun 3 Nov, Cinemas 1, 2 & 3

London International Animation Festival

The Festival celebrating the best of world animation returns with premieres, family-friendly shorts programmes and exciting events, including Disrupting the Narrative, celebrating contemporary animation by Black filmmakers.

Regular Screenings

Learn more about all of our regular screenings by visiting barbican.org.uk/cinema

Family Film Club

11am every Saturday, Cinema 2
Enjoy family films for £2.50–3.50, plus show and tell introductions and free monthly workshops.

Parent and Baby Screenings

New releases every Saturday and Monday morning.
Sign up to the mailing list at barbican.org.uk/parentandbaby

Relaxed Screenings

One Friday and one Tuesday per month, we show a film in a tailored environment for adults on the autistic spectrum, have Tourette Syndrome, anxiety, sensory or other learning difficulties. (£6*; a companion/carer free)

Pay What You Can Screenings

Each Friday, one of our new release film screenings is PWYC. Simply pick the price you can pay. (£3–15)

Senior Community Screenings

Every other Monday 11am, Cinema 2
New release screenings for 60+ cinema goers and those who matter to you most.

Members' Screenings

11am every Sunday, Cinema 2
New release screenings just for Members (£6)



See more art, music, film and theatre for less with Membership

Save with free entry to all exhibitions, 20% off* tickets, no booking fees and deals in our Shops, cafés and restaurants. Plus, enjoy priority booking, Member-only events and our Members' Lounge.



Get even closer as a Patron

Enjoy the benefits of Membership, plus advanced priority booking, tickets for sold out performances and Patron events.

barbican.org.uk/support

*Subject to availability, exclusions apply.



Most new releases have a captioned and audio-described screenings. There are also two relaxed screenings every month. See online for details

Classical Music

All concerts take place in the Hall unless otherwise stated

Thu 2 Nov 7.30pm

Piotr Anderszewski

Johann Sebastian Bach *Overture in the French Style*
Karol Szymanowski Selection of Mazurkas, Op 50
Béla Bartók Bagatelles
Johann Sebastian Bach Partita No 1
 From Bach to Bartók, pianist Piotr Anderszewski finds fascinating connections between composers whose visionary ideas would change keyboard music forever.

Fri 3 Nov 7.30pm

BBC Symphony Orchestra/ Ollikainen: The Faun and the Firebird

Claude Debussy *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*
Lotta Wennäkoski *Prosodia* (BBC co-commission, UK premiere)
Borys Mykolayovych Lyatoshynsky *Grazhyna*
Igor Stravinsky *Firebird Suite* (1919)
 Fairytale colours, Ukrainian courage and a talking violin. Eva Ollikainen conducts Stravinsky and Debussy and Ilya Gringolts gives the world premiere of a violin concerto with a difference.

Sat 4 Nov 7.30pm, Milton Court

The Fourth Choir: Shoulder to Shoulder

Includes:
Hildegard von Bingen *O virga mediatrix*
Ethel Smyth *The March of the Women*
CN Lester *Ethel Smyth on Freedom* (world premiere)
 For its tenth anniversary concert, London's LGBT+ classical choir celebrates the life, loves and legacy of Dame Ethel Smyth, with choral music spanning 1000 years.

Sun 5 Nov 4pm, Milton Court

Fenella Humphreys & Leah Broad

Includes:
Ethel Smyth 'Allegro moderato' and 'Finale' from Violin Sonata
Doreen Carwithen 'Allegro con moto' and 'Vivace' from Sonata for Violin and Piano
Rebecca Clarke *Midsummer Moon*

Violinist Fenella Humphreys joins forces with author Leah Broad and pianist Nicola Eimer to explore some of the most important but neglected figures of 20th century music.

Sun 5 Nov 7pm

London Symphony Orchestra/André J Thomas: Gospel Explosion

Includes:
André J Thomas *Shout for Joy*
Florence Price *Praise the Lord*
Donald Lawrence *Encourage Yourself*

A performance bringing together the enlivening power of gospel music and the symphonic sound of the LSO, curated and conducted by LSO Associate Artist André J Thomas.

6–13 Nov, Silk Street Theatre

Guildhall Opera Double Bill: Respighi

The life stories of two eponymous female heroes are explored in two captivating operatic works by Italian composer Ottorino Respighi: *Maria egiziaca* and *La bella dormiente nel bosco*.

Tue 14 Nov 7.30pm

Nigel Kennedy: Bach Now!

Includes:
Johann Sebastian Bach Violin Concerto No 2 in E major, BWV 1042
Nigel Kennedy *Melody in the Wind*
Johann Sebastian Bach Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043
 Nigel Kennedy and the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra celebrate one of the greatest composers of all time with a programme of concertos by Johann Sebastian Bach.



Fenella Humphreys © Alejandro Tamagno



Visit our website for full programme information, including concerts from the Barbican Presents series, London Symphony Orchestra and our other associate orchestras, or contact the Box Office to be posted our current Classical Music brochure.



Resident
Orchestra

Thu 16 Nov 8pm

LSO/Duncan Ward with Abel Selaocoe

Gary Carpenter *Dadaville*
Béla Bartók *Dance Suite*
Samuel Barber *Medea's Dance of Vengeance*
Abel Selaocoe *Four Spirits*

South African and European traditions meet in the transformative music of Abel Selaocoe, alongside folk and jazz-flecked music from Gary Carpenter and Bartók.

Mon 20 Nov 7.30pm

Insula Orchestra/ Laurence Equilbey: Fauré's Requiem

Gabriel Fauré *Requiem*
Charles Gounod *Saint François d'Assise*

A powerful and unique take on French sacred music, as artist Mat Collishaw's mesmerising projections accompany music by Fauré and Gounod.

Wed 22 Nov 7.30pm

Guildhall Symphony Orchestra

Antony Hermus conducts a fascinating and fantastical evening of music: Unsuk Chin's *Frontispiece*, Bartók's *Suite from The Miraculous Mandarin*, and Zemlinsky's *The Mermaid*, a sumptuous fantasy for orchestra.

Thu 23 Nov 7pm

LSO/Duncan Ward: Star-crossed Lovers

Béla Bartók *Violin Concerto No 1*
Leoš Janáček *Taras Bulba*
Ernest Chausson *Poème*
Claude Debussy *La mer*

Duncan Ward and the LSO sweep you off your feet with symphonic poems from Janáček and Debussy, while violinist Isabelle Faust offers sensitive insights into the music of Bartók.

Thu 23 Nov 7.30pm, Milton Court

Academy of Ancient Music: Music for an Empress

Includes:
Joseph Haydn *Symphony No 48 in C major, Maria Theresa*
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *Symphony No 7 in D major*
Maria Teresa Agnesi 'Rapido turbin vedo' from *Sofonisba*

The Academy of Ancient Music travels to the Vienna of Empress Maria Theresa – where genius paid court, and music flourished in magnificent (and unexpected) new ways.

Fri 24 Nov 7.30pm

BBC SO/Bychkov: Brahms Symphony 4

Detlev Glanert *Prager Sinfonie* (UK premiere)
Johannes Brahms *Symphony No 4 in E minor*

Two different centuries, and two very different – but equally heartfelt – fourth symphonies. Semyon Bychkov conducts music by Detlev Glanert and Johannes Brahms.

Sun 26 Nov 2.30pm

LSO Family Concert

Presented in a fun and informative way, this LSO Family Concert brings to life the story of how Diwali came about with Indian and Western Classical instruments.

Sun 26 Nov 7.30pm, Milton Court

Elégie – Rachmaninov: A Heart in Exile

Includes:
Sergei Rachmaninov *Preludes Études-Tableaux Moments Musicaux*

Pianist Lucy Parham and Sir Simon Russell Beale explore many of Rachmaninov's best-loved works for solo piano, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth.

Wed 29 Nov 7.30pm, Milton Court

Anthony McGill and Britten Sinfonia

Includes:
Jessie Montgomery *Starburst* (chamber orchestra version)
Anthony Davis *You Have the Right to Remain Silent* (European premiere)
George Walker *Lyric for Strings*

Principal Clarinet of the New York Philharmonic, Anthony McGill embarks on his residency at Milton Court in an evening of conversation and performance with Britten Sinfonia, including a panel discussion with Anthony Davis.

Thu 30 Nov 7pm

LSO/Susanna Mälkki

George Benjamin *Concerto for Orchestra*
Paul Hindemith *Symphony: Mathis der Maler*
Sergei Rachmaninov *Piano Concerto No 3*

Long-time master of its dizzying technical challenges, Kirill Gerstein – a Spotlight Artist with the LSO in 2023/24 – offers a clear, fresh view of the fabulous structure of Rachmaninov's masterwork.

Thu 30 Nov 7pm, Milton Court

Anthony McGill Masterclass

Anthony McGill shares his 'lustrous sound and dynamic range' (*Bachtrack*) with budding musicians from Guildhall School in an evening masterclass, as part of his Milton Court residency.

30 Nov–5 Dec, Silk Street Theatre

Guildhall Autumn Opera Scenes

Outstanding performers from the first year of Guildhall School's Opera course present classical and contemporary operatic excerpts.



For full programme information, including artist line ups, please visit barbican.org.uk

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Rachel Donovan in *Get Happy* © Manuel Harlan

7–19 Dec, The Pit

Told by an Idiot: *Get Happy*

Enter a world of artfully controlled chaos as physical comedy, live music, acrobatics, silly dancing and audience interaction combine into one for a show that children and adults of all ages will love. The critically-acclaimed *Get Happy* from Told by an Idiot returns this December, with their production featuring a mysterious bag that drops from a height, shoes that have magical powers, and a very strange egg sandwich made in front of your eyes.

Get Happy has very little speech. Scripted speech is also in sign supported English (SSE), however there may be occasional spoken ad libs.



13–14 Dec, Hall

Jockstrap

Acclaimed electronic pop duo Jockstrap's Georgia Ellery (also of Black Country, New Road) and Taylor Skye met at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, so this concert is something of a homecoming for them. Following the release of their debut album *I Love You Jennifer B* last year, the two have had a meteoric rise, including festival performances at Glastonbury, Wide Awake, Primavera, and Pitchfork Chicago, as well as supporting Blur at their Wembley Stadium shows. Now they take to our stage with their distinctive mix of lustrous pop songs, incredible production and musical innovation.



London Concert Orchestra will perform this Christmas

16 Dec–1 Jan, Hall

Raymond Gubbay Christmas Festival

Get into the festival spirit with this annual Christmas extravaganza. Enjoy the music of the best-loved films with Christmas at the Movies or join in with the great big Christmas Carol Singalong. The wonderful voices of King's College Choir perform a sublime concert of seasonal classics in a candlelit-style setting, while for families there's a chance to discover how we've celebrated Christmas through the centuries with *Horrible Histories: Horrible Christmas*. There's plenty more to discover, including a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and a musical welcome to 2024 with the New Year's Day Proms.



Natalie Dessay © Simon Fowler

6 Dec, Milton Court

Natalie Dessay and Philippe Cassard: Women's Words

Soprano Natalie Dessay guides us through a gallery of unforgettable women, from composers Alma Mahler, Clara Schumann and Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn to great operatic heroines. Possessing one of the most beguiling soprano voices ever to grace the world's operatic stages, Natalie Dessay has forged a career characterised by its variety and integrity. Now channelling her energies into concert performances, Dessay and regular collaborator Philippe Cassard present a selection of exquisite art songs and arias that make full use of Dessay's expressive range.



Once Upon a Time in the West

Sun 10 Dec 1.50pm, Cinema 1

Adrian Wootton Presents... Sergio Leone + Once Upon a Time in the West

Delve deep into the work of Italian master Sergio Leone and then watch the new 4K restoration of one of his most celebrated films. With its unforgettable Ennio Morricone score and epic scope, *Once Upon a Time in the West* represents the peak of the Spaghetti Western.



Members' events

Sun 12 Nov, Barbican Kitchen

Fresh Pesto Pasta Workshop

Discover how to make fresh pasta and the perfect homemade pesto at this fun, interactive workshop with Barbican Kitchen's Chef.

Mon 20 Nov, Conservatory

Yoga in the Conservatory

Wind down, rebalance and bring some calmness to your week in the beautiful surroundings of the Conservatory.

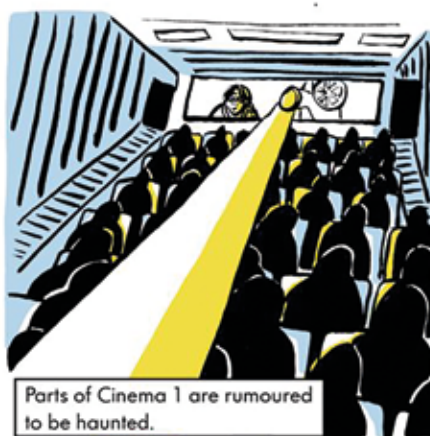
Sat 25 Nov, Barbican Centre

Winter Dusk Photo Walk

Capture life around the Barbican in the effervescent winter light as Photographer Anthony Palmer leads this exploratory walk.

A colourful look at history

Have you seen the Barbican Archive-inspired comic strips yet?



Discover the fascinating history of our Centre, and uncover little-known facts about its past through a series of comics by artist Annie Ward.

Learn more about the rumours of the haunting of Cinema 1, find out how many pubs used to be on the Barbican Estate, or look back to the year when 13 minor fires were dealt with by staff through her colourful and humorous illustrations.

Ward wrote the comics after being inspired by objects or stories from our Archive. You can delve into this treasure trove of items for yourself at Google Arts and Culture, where we've digitised much of the collection, from memos written about the first year of operations to photos of the Centre being built.

Among the fascinating stories Ward reveals is the history of the Barbican's mobile bars. Created in the 1980s, they could be moved at a moment's notice to dispense refreshments wherever they were needed. There's also a fun look at the tale of the Martini Bar, and a look back at the time in 1987 when Barbican staff artworks were exhibited in The Curve after a show there was cancelled.

Find Ward's wonderful comics at sites. barbican.org.uk/archive-sketches



The Barbican sparks creative possibilities and transformation for artists, audiences and communities – to inspire, connect, and provoke debate.

As a not-for-profit, we need to raise two thirds of our income through fundraising, ticket sales, and commercial activities. With the help of our generous supporters, we are able to share the work of some of the most inspiring and visionary artists and creatives, enabling the widest possible audience to experience the joy of the arts.

There are many ways you can support the Barbican, including by making a donation, joining our programme as a sponsor, or becoming a Member. To find out more and join our community, please visit barbican.org.uk/supportus or contact development@barbican.org.uk

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A delicious meal with a stunning view

Barbican Brasserie celebrates British classics and European dishes with a modern twist. Located on the second floor of the Barbican overlooking the iconic lakeside and fountains, it's a fantastic spot for lunch or for a pre-theatre meal.

Led by Head Chef Clifton D'Souza, the menu focuses on simple and delicious dishes where seasonal ingredients take centre stage.

For starters, tuck into pan-seared scallops or charred mackerel with homemade dill mayonnaise. The mains feature pan-seared

stone bass, roasted pork cutlet with apple puree, and a firm favourite – wild mushroom risotto. And for dessert, pick from cheesecake with cherry ice-cream, and, in a nod to Italy – dark chocolate and matcha cannoli.

Booking

Book online at barbican.org.uk

Stay in touch

For the latest on sale dates, special events and news straight to your inbox, sign up to our email list at barbican.org.uk



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We create a space for collaboration, co-creation and conversation.

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Cover image: Artwork for the album *London Brew* – the self-titled debut release by a band of jazz musicians, who'll perform at the EFG London Jazz Festival.