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barbican

Barbican announces Take Five celebration for EFG London Jazz Festival, plus Dirty Three and new support acts

The Evolution of UK Jazz – 20 Years On
Wednesday 19 November 2025
Barbican Hall
Tickets from £20 plus booking fee

Barbican Associate Producer Serious celebrates 20 years of its pioneering talent development programme **Take Five**, with a special one-night-only concert in the Barbican Hall - presented as part of the **EFG London Jazz Festival 2025**. Showcasing the influence and legacy of *Take Five*, the evening will include new commissions, collaborations and premieres from some of the UK's most exciting jazz artists.

The performance will premiere brand new compositions by jazz musician **Shabaka**, joined by alto saxophonist **Camilla George**, both of whom are celebrated alumni of the programme and instrumental in shaping the sound of contemporary British Jazz. These boundary-pushing artists will perform alongside an all-star ensemble of previous *Take Five* artists, under the musical direction of acclaimed composer and saxophonist **Jason Yarde**. The evening will also include a specially selected piece by renowned saxophonist and composer **John Surman**, who served as the programme's Musical Director from 2005 to 2017.

With more guests to be announced, the evening opens with **Poesis** — a newly commissioned work and unique collaboration exploring interconnection, borders and language as thresholds. Featuring live soundscapes, reimagining of traditional folk songs, improvised melodies, and manipulated voices, the performance blurs lines between past and present, place and perception, featuring artists from recent cohorts of Take Five including **Lulu Manning**, **Xhosa Cole**, **Claire Victoria Roberts** and **Connor McAuley**.

A key moment in this year's EFG London Jazz Festival, this *Take Five* celebration at the Barbican is a true milestone and opportunity for fans to witness the very best of UK Jazz, as generations of artists take to the stage in the Hall.

This concert is presented by Serious in partnership with the Barbican, with support from Arts Council England, PRS Foundation, and Cockayne Grants for the Arts, through the Serious Trust.

ABOUT TAKE FIVE:

The Take Five initiative is aimed at British and UK based composer-performers and is designed to give some of the UK's most talented emerging creative jazz musicians the opportunity to take time out to develop their craft, build their careers and get their music out into the world. Since launching, the programme has supported over 160 artists, many of whom have gone on to define modern UK jazz, including Moses Boyd, Emma-Jean Thackray, Soweto Kinch, Nubya Garcia, Yazz Ahmed, Seb Rochford, Sarathy Korwar, and Abel Selaocoe.

[Find out more](#)

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Dirty Three
Monday 8 December 2025, 8pm
Barbican Hall
Tickets from £25 plus booking fee

Dirty Three return to Europe with their first tour for 12 years. In a rare live performance in London, Dirty Three bring their unmistakable sound — at once raw, lyrical and unpredictable — to the Barbican Hall this December.

Formed in Melbourne in the early 1992, the trio of **Warren Ellis** (violin), **Mick Turner** (guitar), and **Jim White** (drums) have spent over three decades developing a distinctive sound that is mostly instrumental and driven by feeling. Drawing on rock, folk, jazz and improvisation, their music moves between restraint and intensity, creating shifting, emotionally charged landscapes.

Following the release of *Love Changes Everything* (Bella Union, 2024) - their first album in over a decade — Dirty Three return to the stage with the same restless energy and collaborative instinct that has long defined their work.

"It's impossible to find flaw with the performance, though its x factor is something collectively felt. A kind of accruing, song by fiery song, of irrefutable proof as to how truly great this band is."
- Sydney Opera House performance review in The Guardian

Produced by the Barbican
[Find out more](#)

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SUPPORT ACTS ANNOUNCED:

Whatever The Weather – Loraine James
+ **Lucinda Chua**
Saturday 6 September 2025, 7.30pm
Milton Court Concert Hall
Tickets from £20 plus booking fee

Visionary London producer **Loraine James** presents a rare live performance under her ambient-leaning alias, **Whatever The Weather**— as she brings her deeply introspective soundscapes to Milton Court Concert Hall this autumn.

Support comes from South London-based singer, songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist **Lucinda Chua**.

Produced by the Barbican in association with Bird on the Wire
[Find out more](#)

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The Divine Comedy: Rainy Sunday Afternoon
+ **Studio Electrophonique**
Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 October 2025, 7.30pm
Barbican Hall
From £25, plus booking fee

The Divine Comedy return to the Barbican in support of their forthcoming orchestral pop album, *Rainy Sunday Afternoon* (Divine Comedy Records, due for release 19th September 2025). Returning for the first time since their five-night retrospective in 2022, Neil Hannon and band will perform tracks from their first studio album in over six years across two consecutive nights in the **Barbican Hall** on **11 & 12 October 2025**.

Support on both nights comes from **Studio Electrophonique**, the recording alias of James Leesley.

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LISTINGS – BARBICAN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC PROMOTIONS COMING UP IN 2025

- Summer Jazz Series: Take Me To The River All-Stars: Memphis Soul Revue ([Sat 12 Jul 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Summer Jazz Series: Herbie Hancock ([Thu 24 – Sat 26 Jul 2025, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- Quinteto Astor Piazzolla ([Sun 27 Jul 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- ganavya: Daughter of a Temple ([Thu 4 Sep 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Whatever The Weather - Loraine James + **Lucinda Chua** ([Sat 6 Sep 2025, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Hand to Earth & Shabaka – Fragile Earth Series ([Fri 12 Sep 2025, St Giles Cripplegate, 7.30pm](#))
- Balimaya Project x Discos Pacífico All Stars ([Sat 27 Sep 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- JAMBINAI with London Contemporary Orchestra - K-Music Festival 2025 ([Sun 5 Oct 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Trio Da Kali ([Mon 6 Oct 2025, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- The Divine Comedy: Rainy Afternoon + **Studio Electrophonique** ([Sat 11 - Sun 12 Oct 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Hayden Thorpe: Song of Ness with Robert Macfarlane and Propellor Ensemble ([Thu 16 Oct 2025, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Louis VI Presents... NATURE AIN'T A LUXURY – Fragile Earth Series ([Sat 25 & Sun 26 Oct 2025, Conservatory, various times](#))
- Public Service Broadcasting with London Contemporary Orchestra ([Sat 1 Nov 2025, Barbican Hall, 3pm & 8pm](#))
- EFG London Jazz Festival: aja monet with guests ([Fri 14 Nov 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- EFG London Jazz Festival: We Exist! The Dee Dee Bridgewater Quartet ([Sat 15 Nov, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- EFG London Jazz Festival: Hermeto Pascoal & Grupo ([Sun 16 Nov 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **NEW** - EFG London Jazz Festival: The Evolution of UK Jazz – 20 Years On ([Wed 19 Nov 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- EFG London Jazz Festival: Hiromi's Sonicwonder ([Fri 21 Nov 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- EFG London Jazz Festival: Tortoise ([Sat 22 Nov 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- EFG London Jazz Festival: Japanese Jazz ([Sun 23 Nov 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Hania Rani – Non Fiction: A Piano Concerto in Four Movements ([Tue 25 – Weds 26 Nov, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Carlos Alomar presents: The D.A.M. Trilogy ([Fri 28 Nov 2025, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- Le Trio Joubran: Twenty Springs ([Sat 29 Nov 2025, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- GoGo Penguin + special guest Daudi Matsiko ([Wed 3 Dec 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- **NEW** - Dirty Three ([Mon 8 Dec 2025, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- Lucinda Williams ([Tue 3 February 2026, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- Jóhann Jóhannsson: Cinematic Suites ([Wed 18 Feb 2026, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Ryoji Ikeda Weekender: Portrait ([Fri - Sat 20-21 Feb 2026, Various Venues](#))

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), our Resident Orchestra, and a London base for the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our Artistic Associates the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Darbar Arts](#), [Cultural and Heritage Trust](#), and [Serious](#), who produce the [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), alongside other associates and partners including [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), and [Trafalgar Theatre Productions](#).

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