

For immediate release: Wednesday 10 September 2025

# barbican

## Barbican announces nonclassical tribute to Daphne Oram



Artwork Nele Wellens (photograph © Edinburgh News)

**nonclassical presents: Vari/ations – An Ode to Oram**  
**Thursday 4 December 2025, 7.30pm**  
**Barbican Hall**  
**Tickets from £15 plus booking fee**

Marking 100 years of trailblazing composer Daphne Oram, nonclassical presents *Vari/ations – An Ode to Oram* at the Barbican this December.

A pioneer of electronic sound, Daphne Oram was far ahead of her time, co-founding the BBC Radiophonic workshop in the 1950s and becoming a towering figure in experimental music. In her centenary year, nonclassical celebrates her exploratory spirit with an evening of music from six of today's most exciting sonic innovators, celebrating Daphne Oram through the work of these leading gender-marginalised electronic composers.

Musical direction for the evening comes from award-winning producer and musician **Marta Salogni**, weaving together performances alongside **TAAHLIAH**, **Deena Abdelwahed**, **Félicia Atkinson**, **Nwando Ebizie** and **xname** in a celebration of Oram's legacy across electronic music. The six artists make use of samples from Oram's own sound archive, with reel-to-reel tapes, self-built instruments, and the Mini Oramics machine originally conceived by Oram. Alongside these samples will be CDJs, sample pads and more as these artists channel Oram's boundary-breaking ethos into forward-looking, genre-defying live performances, each on a living homage to her influence.

The performance takes place alongside the release of a new ten-track compilation album (nonclassical, 14 November 2025) featuring new commissions by the performing artists as well as trailblazing voices including **Cosey Fanni Tutti**, **Arushi Jain**, **Lola de la Mata**, **afroterm + abi asisa**, and **Magz Hall + Mieko Shimizu**. Ticket holders to the event will be able to pre-order a limited-edition vinyl to be collected on the night at a special price of **£25** (RRP £30).

The evening will also include a free pre-concert talk, hosted by **Jennifer Lucy Allan** and featuring **Cosey Fanni Tutti** and **Lola de la Mata** at 6pm in the Barbican's Fountain Room, alongside free performances in the Barbican foyer from **Lola de la Mata** and **afromerm + abi asisa**.

*Generously supported by Trevor Fenwick and Jane Hindley*

*Nonclassical would like to thank the following people and partners for making this project possible: The Daphne Oram Trust, The Oram Awards; Sarah Angliss, Ian Stonehouse and everyone at Special Collections & Archives, Goldsmiths, University of London; Electronic Music Studios, Goldsmiths, University of London, National Lottery Awards Arts Council England and The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.*

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

~

## LISTINGS – BARBICAN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC PROMOTIONS COMING UP IN 2025

- 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](#))
- Ustad Noor Bakhsh + Jaubi + Amrit Kaur ([Fri 3 Oct 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](#))
- Touching Bass presents: Halima & Ilnoledge ([Fri 17 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](#))
- Daniel Avery ([Sat 8 Nov 2025, Barbican Hall, 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](#))
- EFG London Jazz Festival: Dhamaal ([Sun 16 Nov 2025, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- EFG London Jazz Festival: Anthony Joseph: Rowing Up River To Get Our Names Back ([Mon 17 Nov 2025, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- 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** - Nonclassical presents: Vari/ations – An Ode to Oram ([Thurs 4 Dec 2025, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- 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](#))
- Blonde Redhead ([Thurs 19 Feb 2026, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Ryoji Ikeda Weekender: Portrait ([Fri - Sat 20-21 Feb 2026, Various Venues](#))
- The Köln Concert - with Maki Namekawa & Thomas Ehnco ([Sat 6 Apr 2026, 7.30pm](#))
- Mammal Hands ([Wed 29 Apr 2026, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))

## ENDS

Notes to Editors

For further information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:

**Ed Maitland Smith, Communications Manager for Music**

e – [Edward.MaitlandSmith@barbican.org.uk](mailto:Edward.MaitlandSmith@barbican.org.uk)

t – 0203 834 1115

**Amy Allen, Communication Officer for Music**

e – [amy.allen@barbican.org.uk](mailto:amy.allen@barbican.org.uk)

t – 0203 834 1048

**Simone Gibbs, Communications Assistant for Music**

e – [simone.gibbs@barbican.org.uk](mailto:simone.gibbs@barbican.org.uk)

## 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](http://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](#).

For more information, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#) | [LinkedIn](#)