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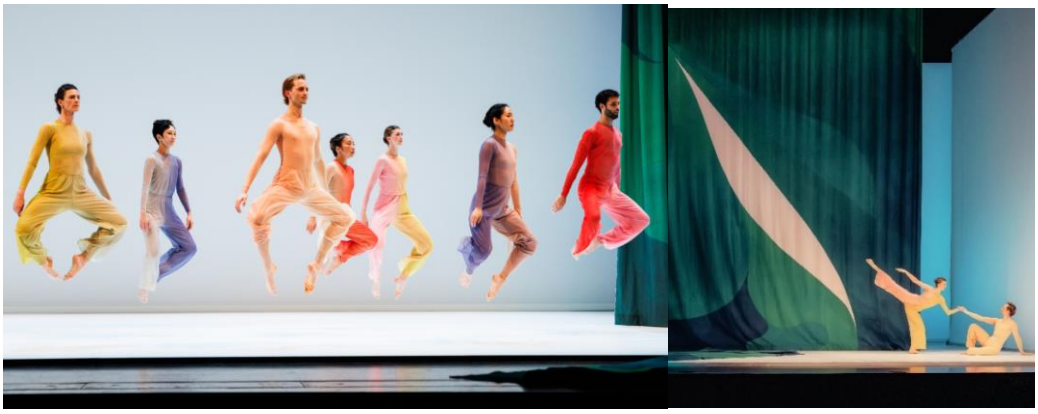
barbican

Pam Tanowitz Dance returns to the Barbican for the UK premiere of *Pastoral*, a collaboration with Caroline Shaw and Sarah Crowner, reimagining Beethoven's Symphony No. 6

Pam Tanowitz Dance: Pastoral
UK Premiere
Thursday 1 — Saturday 3 October 2026
Barbican Theatre
Press performance: Thursday 1 October 2026



Photos by Maria Baranova (left) & Lawrence Sumulong (right)

Movement, sound, silence and colour come together in ***Pastoral*** *(1–3 October)*, a new evocative contemporary dance performance by renowned choreographer **Pam Tanowitz**, with music by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Caroline Shaw**, inspired by Beethoven's depiction of the natural world.

Opening the Barbican's autumn/winter 2026 Theatre & Dance season, this major collaboration between **Tanowitz**, **Shaw** and award-winning visual artist **Sarah Crowner**, is set to a specially commissioned score that responds to and transforms Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F major (*Pastoral*).

Performed by an ensemble of seven dancers and three live musicians, *Pastoral* combines **Tanowitz**'s unique choreographic language, both rigorously balletic and refreshingly rooted in the present day, shaped by over thirty years of experimentation.

Shaw's composition refracts and reimagines Beethoven's original score, incorporating moments of silence that reflect the aural experience of life, while **Crowner**'s décor design draws on her abstract cut-and-stitch painting canvases, forming a shifting landscape in magnificent jewel colours.

Returning to the Barbican Theatre following the success of *Four Quartets* (2019) and *Song of Songs* (2023), **Tanowitz** continues her series of major performances that respond to masterworks of the past. *Pastoral* was co-commissioned by and premiered at the Fisher Center at Bard College, New York, in summer 2025 to critical acclaim (*"Fresh and delightfully unpredictable… Pastoral was not a place I wanted to leave",* The New York Times). The UK premiere of this production is complemented by a music programme of **Caroline Shaw**'s work, who is the Barbican's Composer in Focus this autumn.

Toni Racklin, Barbican Head of Theatre & Dance, says:

"We are thrilled to welcome Pam Tanowitz Dance back to the Barbican with the UK premiere of Pastoral, which brings together three extraordinary artists in Pam Tanowitz, Caroline Shaw and Sarah Crowner. It is a striking example of the kind of ambitious collaboration we make space for at the Barbican, where choreographers, composers and visual artists come together to create bold and layered work. Tanowitz is a major voice in contemporary choreography, and it's a privilege to give audiences another opportunity to experience her distinctive reworkings of major classical and modern sources in performance, as this marks our third co-commission presenting her company of dancers in London."

Pam Tanowitz, choreographer, says:
"Toni and the Barbican went out on a limb in 2018, supporting my piece Four Quartets without knowing my work that well. Now, eight years later, we've developed a close collaboration. Returning for a third time to the Barbican, this time with one of my newest works Pastoral, is thrilling—it continues our history together and lets me share Pastoral with London audiences."

ENDS

Press Information

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Images can be downloaded here

Video on the making of Pastoral with Pam Tanowitz, Sarah Crowner & Caroline Shaw here

Trailer here

LISTINGS

***Pastoral* by Pam Tanowitz Dance**
Barbican Theatre
Thurs 1 Oct – Sat 3 Oct 2026 (4 performances)
Thurs 1 Oct – Sat 3 Oct at 7:45pm, Sat 3 Oct at 2:30pm
Press performance: Thurs 1 Oct, 7.45pm

Running Time: 1 hour (no interval)
Age guidance: 10+
From £18 plus booking fee; £12 Young Barbican tickets available

Fri 2 Oct, 7.45pm: Audio described performance & pre-show touch tour: Fri 2 Oct, 7.45pm
Fri 2 Oct, 7.45pm: Post show talk with choreographer Pam Tanowitz, composer Caroline Shaw and painter Sarah Crowner. Chaired by Gideon Lester, Artistic Director from the Fisher Center. Free to same performance ticket holders.

Co-commissioned and presented by the Barbican.

Pastoral *is a co-commission of Fisher Center LAB, the signature residency and commissioning program of the Fisher Center at Bard, and Barbican London, Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels, and Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg. Commissioning support for* Pastoral *was provided by Judith R. and Alan H. Fishman, Amy and Ronald Guttman, King's Fountain, and the SHS Foundation, with additional funds provided by the O'Donnell Green Music and Dance Foundation. Developmental support was received from the Harkness Foundation for Dance. Fisher Center LAB is funded in part by the Lucille Lortel Foundation and the Fisher Center's Artistic Innovation Fund, with lead support from Rebecca Gold Milikowsky and additional funding from The William and Lia G. Poorvu Family Foundation. The Pam Tanowitz Creation Fund is supported by the Friends of Pam with leadership gifts from an anonymous donor, Angela Bernstein CBE, and Lizbeth and George Krupp.*

Cast and Creative team

Pam Tanowitz Dance:
Marc Crousillat
Christine Flores
Lindsey Jones
Maile Okamura
Caitlin Scranton
Stephanie Terasaki
Anson Zwingelberg
Taylor LaBruzzo (Understudy)

Bassoon: **Dana Jessen**
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet: **Bill Kalinkos**
Oboe/English Horn: **Andrew Nogal**

Choreography: **Pam Tanowitz**
Decór: **Sarah Crowner**
Music: **Caroline Shaw**
Production & Lighting Design: **Davison Scandrett**
Costume Design: **Reid Bartelme**

Sound Design: **Justin Ellington**
Associate Sound Designer & Audio Supervisor: **Stephen Jensen**
Associate Lighting & Production Design: **Nicholas Houfek**
Assistant Lighting & Production Design: **Alejandro Fajardo**
Technical Director & Production Manager: **Mark Quiles**
Stage Manager: **Betsy Ayer**
Rehearsal Director: **Maile Okamura**
Music Supervisor: **Dana Jessen**
Company Manager: **Madeleine Reilly**
Producer: **Jason Collins**

Information on *Composer in Focus: Caroline Shaw* as part of Barbican's Classical Music 26/27 programme here.

Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS
Box Office: 020 7870 2500 (Monday-Friday 12noon - 5.30pm)
Email: info@barbican.org.uk
Barbican Centre's ticket sales team can also now help via WhatsApp on 07480 801406 or send a text to 07380 975000
Access enquiries: 020 7101 1188 (Monday–Sunday 10am–5.30pm), via WhatsApp on 07480 801406 or send a text to 07710 854085

Pam Tanowitz is a NYC-based choreographer. Her company, Pam Tanowitz Dance, has performed at Bard Summerscape festivals (2016, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2025), La Biennale di Venezia, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Barbican Centre, Lincoln Center and New York City Center. She has created three ballets for The Royal Ballet and is currently working on a fourth. Other companies that have danced her dances are New York City Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Martha Graham Dance Company, Miami City Ballet, Wiener Staatsballett, and Australian Ballet. She has also created dances for Vail Dance Festival and The Juilliard School.

Artistic highlights include Fisher Center at Bard Choreographer-in-Residence (present), Doris Duke Award (2020), LMCC Liberty Award for Artistic Leadership (2022), NYCC Artist at the Center (2023), Jacob's Pillow Award (2024), Herb Alpert Award (2019), Juilliard Creative Associate (2024, 2025) and Assistant Professor of Professional Practice at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University (present).

Sarah Crowner works across a variety of media (painting, sculpture, installation, and set design). Her art points to an expanded field of painting, investigating the relationship between the element and the whole, and how parts build an entirety. Crowner's recent solo exhibitions were held at the Bass Museum of Art (2025), SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia, (2025), Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, Hill Art Foundation, New York, USA (2023) and The Instituto Bardi / Casa de Vidro & auroras, São Paulo, Brazil (2023); as well as a site specific installation at the Chianti Foundation in Marfa, Texas in 2022, a participation in the 57th Edition of Carnegie International (2018); and a solo exhibition at MASS MoCA, North Adams (2016).

Crowner's work has also been featured in a number of group exhibitions, including the Whitney Biennial 2010, New York; Abstract Generation: Now in Print, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2013); Excursus IV: Primary Information, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (2013); Painter Painter, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2013); Conversation Piece, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2014); and the Carnegie International Exhibition, 57th Edition (2018). She earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1996 and a MFA from Hunter College, City University of New York in 2002.

Caroline Shaw is a musician who moves among roles, genres, and mediums, trying to imagine a world of sound that has never been heard before but has always existed. She often works in collaboration with others, as a producer, composer, violinist, and vocalist. Caroline is the recipient of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Music, several Grammy awards, an honorary doctorate from Yale, and a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship.

Recent projects include the score to Fleishman is in Trouble (FX/Hulu), vocal work with Rosalía (MOTOMAMI), the score to Josephine Decker's The Sky Is Everywhere (A24/Apple), music for the National Theatre's production of The Crucible (dir. Lyndsey Turner), Justin Peck's Partita with New York City Ballet, the premiere of Microfictions Vol. 3 for NY Philharmonic and Roomful of Teeth, a live orchestral score for Wu Tsang's silent film Moby Dick co-composed with Andrew Yee, two albums on Nonesuch (Evergreen and The Blue Hour), and tours with So Percussion featuring songs from Let The Soil Play Its Simple Part (Nonesuch). She has contributed production to albums by Rosalía, Woodkid, and Nas.

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, and a London base of the Royal Shakespeare Company. We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the Academy of Ancient Music, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Boy Blue, Darbar, Doc'n Roll Film Festival, Drum Works, EFG London Jazz Festival, London Palestine Film Festival, Serious, and Trafalgar Theatre Productions.

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