

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

MELTDOWN

STRICTLY EMBARGOED FOR Wednesday 6 May 2026, 6am BST

Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images: available to download [here](#)

Harry Styles' one-off full-orchestra performance for Meltdown festival announced as fundraiser for the Southbank Centre, with tickets allocated via prize draw

Fundraiser to support the multi-arts centre's work with young people and communities across the UK

The Southbank Centre today announces that **Harry Styles'** headline performance on 16 June 2026, part of his curation of this year's *Meltdown* festival, will be a major fundraiser for the multi-arts centre's charitable work, with tickets allocated via a prize draw opening today.

The one-night-only headline performance in the iconic Royal Festival Hall offers a rare and intimate experience of a Harry Styles gig, through a landmark collaboration with the **Jules Buckley Orchestra**. This orchestral gig will see Styles and Grammy award-winning conductor, composer and previous collaborator **Buckley** join forces to bring an evening of new arrangements of Harry Styles' music to life.

As the **Southbank Centre** celebrates its 75th anniversary, proceeds from the draw will directly support the centre's ongoing work with artists, young people, and communities across the UK. At a time when UK councils are spending 76% less on services for young people than in 2010, and 1 in 5 school pupils* are struggling with their mental health, the fundraiser will help to sustain access to creativity where it is needed most, supporting the Southbank Centre's programme of free and subsidised opportunities that build confidence, wellbeing and connection for thousands of young people each year**.

Each year, the Southbank Centre provides more than 25,000 young people free access to enriching cultural experiences, through programmes including **Youth Voices**, **Creative Encounters**, **Creative Health** and the Centre's **free Under 30s Membership**, empowering the next generation to find their voice through creative opportunity.

The prize draw for this momentous concert has been designed as a randomised allocation process, ensuring a fair allocation of available tickets to entrants. All net proceeds from the concert and prize draw entry fees will support the Southbank Centre's charitable work across the UK.

Today, the Southbank Centre is pleased to announce **American Express** as the Official Supporting Partner of *Harry Styles' Meltdown*, reflecting their ongoing backing of leading cultural institutions in the UK.

Key information:

- The prize draw opens today (Wednesday 6 May, 6am BST), and is open to residents of the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man aged 18 or over.
- There are **1,900 seats** allocated via the Southbank Centre's prize draw (950 pairs).

- Each entry is for a **pair** of tickets and entrants may purchase 1, 2 or 3 entries (£20 / £40 / £60). The maximum number of tickets that can be won is two (one pair).
- **Online entries** close at 12 noon on Friday 15 May 2026, 12pm BST. Entrants may apply by free **postal entry**, and postal entries must be received by Tuesday 19 May 2026, 6pm BST.
- All net proceeds from the concert (including from draw entry fees) will go towards Southbank Centre's life-changing work with young people.
- Winners are selected at random and notified by 2 June 2026.
- American Express Cardmembers will also have access to a dedicated allocation of tickets, with further details to be announced soon.

Harry Styles, curator of Meltdown, said: *“Coming Up Roses was my first time working with Jules, he’s now helping us with the string arrangements for the Together, Together tour. He’s incredibly talented, and is such a generous collaborator. He’s become someone I love working with. It was obvious as soon as Southbank asked me to curate Meltdown, it was the perfect opportunity to do something really beautiful with him.”*

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, said: *“Meltdown has always been about the greatest artists of our time taking creative control of the Southbank Centre’s venues and shaping something that feels of its moment. This year, that spirit is matched by a clear charitable intent from its curator: to help sustain access to creativity for young people where it is needed most. Entries into this prize draw support the Southbank Centre’s artistic and community programmes at a time when access to the arts, creative health and wellbeing for young people matter more than ever. It’s a simple idea with real impact – an extraordinary cultural moment helping to sustain access to culture in the long term.”*

Dave Edwards, Marketing VP at American Express, said: *“We’re proud to partner with the Southbank Centre for this year’s Meltdown festival, curated by Harry Styles, helping to bring together a programme of world-class artists and reflecting our ongoing commitment to backing leading cultural institutions in the UK. We’re also proud to offer our Cardmembers access to exceptional live events including the opportunity to experience this special headline performance. More details will follow in due course.”*

Also announced today are the first names in a programme of free gigs and participatory events for Harry Styles’ curation of **Meltdown**, unfolding across the site and inviting audiences of all ages to gather, engage and explore.

Across the festival, a free exhibition in partnership with **Kazzum Arts** and **Laura Jane Coulson** showcases photography by young refugees and asylum seekers, following a series of photography workshops, and bringing new perspectives on London’s public spaces and experiences of belonging to the festival.

On Thursday 11 June opening night, Meltdown kicks off on the Riverside Terrace with the Southbank Centre’s free gig series, **futuretense**, as **deep tan** and special guests bring a night of forward-facing live music, spotlighting emerging artists and boundary-pushing sounds in an open-air setting.

On Friday 12 June, the Clore Ballroom hosts **Simmer Down x Meltdown**, a special edition of the Southbank Centre’s reggae series with Resident Organisation **Tomorrow’s Warriors**, uniting communities through rhythm, movement and shared experience. Later, on the Riverside Terrace,

global dance community **Keep Hush** presents **Don't Keep Hush**, a five-hour programme of bass-driven music and collective energy centred around mental health awareness.

On Saturday 13 June, the Royal Festival Hall's Clore Ballroom is given over to a family-focused *Meltdown* edition of monthly arts workshop *Saturday Sessions*, with **Relaxed Sessions: Dad Dancing** in the morning offering a sensory-adapted workshop, followed by **Saturday Sessions: Dad Dancing**, inviting fathers and children to connect through playful, artist-led movement. The celebrations continue outdoors with **Riverside Boogie: Meltdown Edition**, an open dancefloor for all ages, while **Midnight Train** delivers a full day into evening of disco, funk, soul and R&B, with DJs and dancefloor moments running into the night.

On Sunday 14 June, **Steam Down** presents a riverside takeover with live sets of diasporic music, ranging from jazz and funk, to grime and afrobeats. After a 12-year hiatus, **New Young Pony Club** reunites, bringing with them a fantastic mix of guests. For *Meltdown*, the original line-up – **Bulmer, Spence, Lou Hayter and Sarah Jones** – are joined by LCD Soundsystem and Hot Chip's **Al Doyle**, bringing back together the energy and chemistry that defined the band's original run.

On Wednesday 17 June, **Tracey Emin** joins **Deborah Frances-White** for a rare and intimate one-off event – *The Guilty Feminist & Tracey Emin in Conversation* – for an unfiltered conversation about art and life, and what it means to keep making, speaking and resisting.

On Thursday 18 June, **futuretense** returns to the Riverside Terrace with Joviale and special guests, presenting an immersive, genre-blurring live set that foregrounds experimentation and multidisciplinary performance.

On Friday 19 June London pop club night institution **Push The Button** brings a high-energy, feel-good party soundtracking the evening. On Saturday 20 June, the festival's closing weekend continues on the Riverside Terrace as **FOUNDATION.FM Presents Movement** offers a full-day DJ takeover that focuses on artists with lived experience of displacement and asylum. **Foundation FM** was built on diverse programming and authentic representation and is led by female, queer and non-binary DJs.

On the festival's closing night, Sunday 21 June, titans of electronic music **Soulwax** ignite the atmosphere of the Royal Festival Hall with their signature high-voltage sound, performing with a live band comprised of Stefaan Van Leuven, Laima Leyton and three drummers: Iggor Cavalera, Blake Davies and Aurora Bennett.

Established in 1993, *Meltdown* has become one of the Southbank Centre's most distinctive contributions to the UK's cultural landscape, inviting an artist each year to curate a programme that captures the creative energy of its moment and the interests of the curator. **Harry Styles' Meltdown**, presented during the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary year, honours that tradition while reaffirming the Southbank Centre's ongoing commitment to supporting interdisciplinary practice and the next generation of cultural innovators.

Harry Styles will be *Meltdown*'s 31st curator. Past curators include Little Simz (2025), Chaka Khan (2024), Grace Jones, David Byrne, Yoko Ono, Nile Rodgers, M.I.A., David Bowie and Patti Smith.

This summer will also see **Harry Styles** embark on his *Together, Together* tour, a highly anticipated series including a record-breaking 12 performances (12 – 29 June & 1 – 4 July 2025) at Wembley Stadium. **Harry Styles' Meltdown** will provide a uniquely different experience of his artistry, with an opportunity to see his vision take over the Southbank Centre's multi-venue site.

Harry Styles' Meltdown runs 11 – 21 June 2026. The prize draw opens today Wednesday 6 May 2026, 6am BST. Styles' headline gig takes place on 16 June 2026.
www.southbankcentre.co.uk/harry-styles-prize-draw

Further announced events go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on Thursday 7 May 2026, 10am BST, and on general sale Friday 6 May 2026, 10am BST.
www.southbankcentre.co.uk/meltdown

- ENDS -

Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images: available to download [here](#)

NOTES TO EDITORS

* In 2023, 1 in 5 children and young people aged 8 to 25 years had a probable mental health problem ([NHS Digital, 2023](#)). This was 20.3% of 8 to 16 year olds, 23.3% of 17 to 19 year olds and 21.7% of 20 to 25 year olds.

** The Southbank Centre is a long-term advocate and key player for creative health in London, responding to the urgent need for accessible mental health support for young people. **An example of this creative health in action is 'Create Space', a free arts programme launched this spring in partnership with The Well Centre.** Acting as an outpatient referral partner, the Southbank Centre provides a creative outlet for young people aged 11-16 receiving 1:1 therapeutic support at the Lambeth health hub. Through weekly workshops co-delivered by the Well Centre and led by artists and wellbeing practitioners, participants explore poetry, music, and zine-making, while establishing a relationship with the Southbank Centre as a safe space where they can take part in fun activities, build skills and form friendships. Creativity is a proven tool to build self-esteem and process complex emotions. By providing these tools, the programme empowers young people to navigate today's acute challenges while envisioning a brighter future. This journey culminates in a public sharing of their work at the Southbank Centre's Poetry International Festival in July.

With the National Academy of Social Prescribing also in the building, this project is just one piece of a much wider expansion of creative health work happening across the Southbank Centre. By empowering young people to self-refer, and facilitating referrals from a wide range of health professionals, Link Workers, and education, youth, and community services into their growing programmes, the institution is putting creativity at the heart of young people's wellbeing.

The Southbank Centre Youth Singing programme constitutes an important area of our work that responds to the critical lack of investment in the arts in the state education system, which has led to a substantial reduction in high-quality arts provision in schools, including music education, over the last 10 years. According to 2023 data, since 2010 there has been a fall of 35% of students taking music at GCSE level and in 23/24, the Government reached just 27% of its target for music teachers. This decline in art provision is compounded by socio-economic barriers that impede access to the arts outside the classroom, as well as misconceptions by parents around the benefits of arts participation. Together these factors prevent many young people from experiencing the life-changing benefits that music can bring.

Built on an inclusive and positive spirit, our **Youth Voices** choir is a diverse community of singers aged 8-17. Through weekly workshops led by vocal leaders across three terms, our young choristers develop their vocal skills through a range of dynamic singing activities inspired by our artistic programme, and take part in public performances that celebrate their progress. By joining our supportive singing community, young people are supported to build their musical skills and self-belief, experience the significant wellbeing benefits of musical participation and are encouraged to embrace singing as a vital part of their lifelong creative journey.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRIZE DRAW

Prize draw webpage: <http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/harry-styles-prize-draw>

Full terms and conditions [here](#)

Fundraising

- Net proceeds from prize draw entries and ticket sales support the Southbank Centre's artistic and community programmes.
- The initiative forms part of the organisation's 75th anniversary activity.

Prize draw process

- The process is operated as a randomised prize draw from online or postal entries.
- Entrants may submit multiple entries; however, a maximum of two tickets can be allocated per successful entrant.
- A free postal entry route is available in line with UK prize draw regulations. Entries are to be sent to Harry Styles' Meltdown Prize Draw Civica Election Services, 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW.
- E-tickets will be issued on the day of the performance (16 June 2026).
- The Draw opens at 06:00 (BST) on Wednesday 6 May 2026 and closes at 12:00 (BST) on Friday 15 May 2026 for online entries and any postal entries must be received by 18:00 (BST) Tuesday 19 May 2026.

Ticket conditions

- Tickets are non-transferable and cannot be resold.
- The lead booker must attend and present valid photo ID matching the booking name.
- Tickets identified on resale platforms will be invalidated.

Accessibility

- Entrants with accessibility needs (wheelchair space / aisle seat / level access / BSL User) must indicate this at the time of entry. Accessibility tickets will be allocated from the pool of entrants who have indicated their accessibility requirements at the point of entry, in the order in which those entrants are selected by the random number generator.

LISTINGS:

London Parks: An Exhibition

Thu 11 Jun - Weds 1 Jul, Riverside Terrace

Warpaint

Thu 11 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall

Simmer Down x Meltdown

Fri 12 Jun, 1.30pm, Clore Ballroom

Don't Keep Hush

Fri 12 Jun, 6pm, Riverside Terrace

Stephen Fretwell

Fri 12 Jun & Sat 13 Jun, 7.45pm, Purcell Room

Shabaka & Friends

Fri 12 Jun, 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Ninajirachi

Fri 12 Jun, 11pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer

Relaxed Sessions: Dad Dancing

Sat 13 Jun, 11am, Clore Ballroom

Saturday Sessions: Dad Dancing

Sat 13 Jun, 1.30pm, Clore Ballroom

Riverside Boogie: Meltdown Edition

Sat 13 Jun, 2.30pm, Riverside Terrace

Midnight Train

Sat 13 Jun, 4pm, Riverside Terrace

Erika de Casier

Sun 13 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall

Fousheé

Sat 13 Jun, 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Kamasi Washington: Jazz Legends Reimagined

Sun 14 Jun, 3pm, Royal Festival Hall

An Evening with New Young Pony Club

Sun 14 Jun, 7.45pm, Purcell Room

Kamasi Washington: Fearless Movement Live

Sun 14 Jun, 8pm, Royal Festival Hall

Nilüfer Yanya

Sun 14 Jun, 3pm & 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Harry Styles & Jules Buckley Orchestra

Tue 16 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall

Getdown Services

Tue 16 Jun, 7.45pm, Purcell Room

Mulatu Astatke

Wed 17 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall

The Guilty Feminist & Tracey Emin in Conversation

Wed 17 Jun, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Beverly Glenn-Copeland

Thu 18 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall

bar italia

Thu 18 Jun, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Push the Button

Fri 19 Jun, 6pm, Riverside Terrace

Devonté Hynes Ensemble

Fri 19 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall

Orlando Weeks

Fri 19 Jun, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Yussef Dayes

Sat 20 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall

Foundation.FM Presents Movement

Sat 20 Jun, 2pm, Riverside Terrace

Jon Hopkins with Maddie Ashman and Leo Abrahams

Sat 20 Jun, 4pm & 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

James Murphy

Sat 20 Jun, 11pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer

Soulwax

Sun 21 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall

About American Express:

American Express (NYSE: AXP) is a global payments and premium lifestyle brand powered by technology. Our colleagues around the world back our customers with differentiated products, services, and experiences that enrich lives and build business success.

Founded in 1850 and headquartered in New York, American Express' brand is built on trust, security, service, and a rich history of delivering innovation and Membership value for our customers. We seek to provide the world's best customer experience every day to a broad range of consumers, small and medium-sized businesses, and large corporations, and we build and manage relationships with millions of merchants across our global network.

For more information about American Express, visit americanexpress.com, americanexpress.com/en-us/newsroom/, and ir.americanexpress.com.

About American Express Experiences®:

Through Amex Experiences®, Cardmembers have access to presale tickets, as well as some of the best seats and exclusive offers at some of the UK's most sought-after entertainment events via partnerships with a range of institutions including AEG (American Express presents BST Hyde Park, American Express presents Roundhay Festival, All Points East, The O2 Arena and British Airways ARC); All England Lawn Tennis Club (The Championships, Wimbledon); Formula1®; Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club; Somerset House (Somerset House Summer Series); London Restaurant Festival; the National Theatre; and Aviva Studios, the home of Factory International. Amex Experiences is just one example of the powerful backing that American Express provides its Cardmembers.

<https://www.americanexpress.com/en-gb/benefits/entertainment/events/>.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today. The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), two resident organisations (Kinetika Bloco and Tomorrow's Warriors) and six resident orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

About Harry Styles

Harry Styles has become one of the most influential forces in modern culture—but he keeps hitting new peaks. The British singer-songwriter's new album is a deeply personal statement: *Kiss All the Time*. *Disco, Occasionally*. It arrives March 6, nearly four years after his modern classic *Harry's House*, the Grammy-winning Album of the Year for 2023.

"Aperture" sets the tone for the whole album: experimental, wildly adventurous, flamboyantly original, with the message: "We belong together." It's the sound of an artist who feels free and confident to try anything, with his longtime collaborator Kid Harpoon. Like the rest of the album, it breaks new ground for an artist who keeps refusing to repeat himself.

Styles surprised everyone with his first solo albums, 2017's *Harry Styles* and 2019's *Fine Line*, on Columbia Records. He defied clichés with sophisticated songwriting that established him as a fiercely independent voice. *Harry's House* blew up into a record-breaking cultural phenomenon, reaching #1 in 28 countries. "As It Was" became one of the biggest hits of all time, topping the Billboard chart for 15 weeks—unprecedented for a solo artist. He returns to the stage in 2026 with his global *Together, Together* tour. *Kiss All The Time*, *Disco, Occasionally* proves he's still pushing the boundaries, as one of the most unpredictable and ambitious artists in the music world. Nobody can ever guess his next move—and it's clear that he likes it that way.

About Meltdown

The Southbank Centre's award-winning Meltdown festival has been running annually since 1993 and is the longest-running artist-curated music festival in the world. Each year the Southbank Centre invites a different cultural figure to act as curator and select performers and events of their choosing. Previous curators are: Little Simz, Chaka Khan, Christine and the Queens, Grace Jones, Nile Rodgers, Robert Smith, M.I.A., Guy Garvey, David Byrne, James Lavelle, Yoko Ono, Anohni, Ray Davies, Richard Thomson, Ornette Coleman, Massive Attack, Jarvis Cocker, Patti Smith, Morrissey, Lee Scratch-Perry, David Bowie, Robert Wyatt, Scott Walker, Nick Cave, John Peel, Laurie Anderson, Magnus Lindberg, Elvis Costello, Louis Andriessen and George Benjamin. Previous performers include Philip Glass, Lou Reed, Ivor Cutler, Sonic Youth, Suicide,

Nina Simone, Blur, Radiohead, David Gilmour, Coldplay, Mercury Rev, Television, The Dandy Warhols, The Polyphonic Spree, The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Nancy Sinatra, Bert Jansch, Jeff Beck, John Cale, Iggy & The Stooges, Motorhead, Massive Attack, Moby, Nine Inch Nails, The Libertines, The Cure and Femi Kuti. Meltdown has a reputation for staging one-off performances and collaborations by legendary artists. Patti Smith performed Horses in full for her Meltdown; Ray Davies re-staged the TV pop show 'Ready Steady Go!'; Jeff Buckley played his final UK show at Elvis Costello's Meltdown; The New York Dolls reunited for Morrissey; Nick Cave, Grace Jones and Pete Doherty sang Disney songs with Jarvis Cocker; and a rare live performance from Cocteau Twins' Elizabeth Fraser was part of Anohni's Meltdown. Robert Smith's 2018 Meltdown and Grace Jones' 2022 Meltdown were both nominated for Music Week Awards Festival of the Year with Smith's also winning the AIM Independent Music Awards 'Act of Independence' Award.