



SOUTHBANK CENTRE

MULTITUDES PAPILLONS

Thursday 30 April 2026, 7.45pm | Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall

Welcome to *Multitudes*, our multi-arts festival powered by orchestral music. We're bringing together some of the world's finest classical music ensembles – including our six Resident Orchestras – for collaborations with an incredible range of artists from different art forms. Together, we're creating a new way for you to encounter the enduring power of classical music, with unique, adventurous, boundary-breaking concerts.

It's a musical experience like no other!

Mark Ball, Artistic Director, Southbank Centre

There are nearly 20,000 species of butterfly on this planet. And yet, when I think of a butterfly, I not only marvel at the magical – yet fleeting – final outstretched flourish of pattern and colour, I think of all the steps a butterfly takes to achieve its final state of being. Each step evolves with complexity and intensity; each step varies (sometimes wildly!) from the next, but all are driven by the same purpose and destination.

In that same way the making of our show, *Papillons*, is the distinct culmination of our collaborators' different processes and perspectives. Each step is as vital and considered as the other. A co-creation between music, movement, poetry and moving image; provocation and response. Creation and collaboration is never a simple nor easy process. That's not a bad thing. It reminds us that to exist and maintain a relationship with ourselves and those around us is something borne from an active effort, through conversation and connection.

To listen, to really listen, requires attention and care.

Every facet of *Papillons* hopes to reflect this and reveal a little something you hadn't heard or thought of before. From Laura van der Heijden's journey through an intimate, picturesque Imogen Holst through to the fragile yet strident sound-world of Kaija Saariaho; to CHAINES' otherworldly washes of sonic colour, deep intensity and expansiveness in their brand new work. From Thick & Tight's inimitable humour and intricate choreography; to The Camberwell Incredibles' poetic and artistic responses to all of the above.

Each element celebrates the multitude of ways in which we might perceive sound, light and one another.

Jasmin Kent Rodgman, co-artistic director of Manchester Collective

MUSIC

CHAINES oysters sing of silkworms (world premiere)

I Holst The fall of the leaf

Saariaho 7 Papillons (7 Butterflies)

PERFORMERS

Laura van der Heijden *cello*

Thick & Tight (Daniel Hay-Gordon and El Perry) *dance*

CHAINES *electronics, vocals*

The Camberwell Incredibles *mixed media*

Run time (approx.): 1 hour and 10 minutes, with no interval

Papillons is co-created by Manchester Collective, Thick & Tight, CHAINES and Laura van der Heijden.

CHAINES' new work is commissioned by Manchester Collective with support from Hinrichsen Foundation and The Leche Trust. Thick & Tight's work with the Camberwell Incredibles is supported by Lowry.



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

THICK & TIGHT

Thick & Tight is a dance theatre company based in the UK, co-directed by Daniel Hay-Gordon and El Perry. They create a mix of dance, mime, theatre, satire and drag, drawing influence from a wide range of historical, political, literary and artistic subjects.

At the heart of Thick & Tight's practice, steered by a queer identity and perspective, is the intention to open up restrictive and elitist ideas of 'artistic excellence' and to explore dance as a political art form with the power to entertain while challenging social stigma.

Thick & Tight's work has been presented extensively in the UK, including at the Southbank Centre, V&A, Sadler's Wells, Tate, Barbican, Lowry and Royal Ballet and Opera, and at many festivals internationally. Of equal importance is the company's focus on working in socially engaged contexts such as LGBTQIA+ venues, social clubs and with community groups (Duckie, MOTH Club, Posh Club).

Thick & Tight work with an array of collaborators from across different art forms and with dance companies and arts organisations of many kinds. Thick & Tight are Associate Artists at Lowry and Philharmonia Artists in Residence and were recipients of Achievement in Dance at the 2025 UK Theatre Awards.

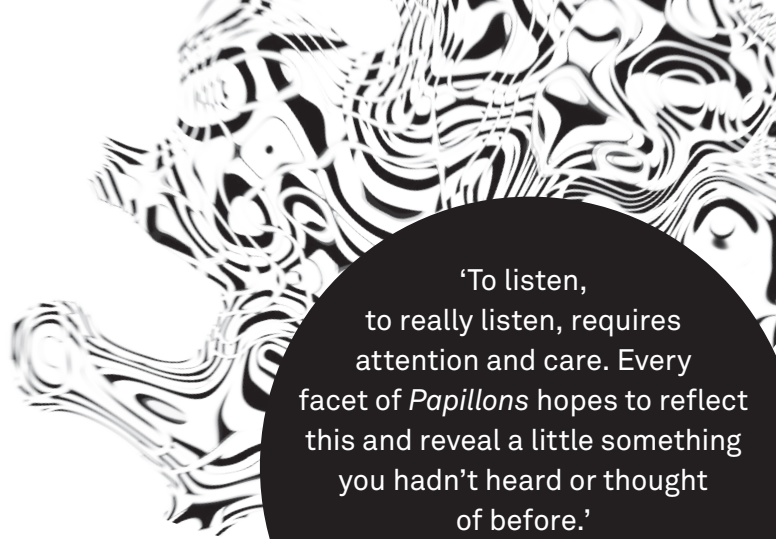
MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE

Known for their experimental programming, daring collaborations and engaging performances, Manchester Collective are reshaping the future of classical music through radical work made in the north of England. The shape-shifting ensemble perform a combination of cutting-edge contemporary music, classical masterpieces and staged work nationally and internationally, in spaces ranging from concert halls to warehouses, nightclubs to festivals.

They collaborate with an exciting array of award-winning artists, pushing at the boundaries of how classical music is presented and experienced. Notable previous projects include *Refractions* with electronic artist Clark and choreographer Melanie Lane, *Sirocco* with South African cellist and composer Abel Selaocoe, and a multimedia performance of Michael Gordon's *Weather* with an installation by sound recordist Chris Watson.

New music is of vital importance to the Collective. Crossing different musical genres, in recent years they have commissioned major works by composers including Edmund Finnis, Nabihah Iqbal, Oliver Leith, Laurence Osborn, Hannah Peel, Lyra Pramuk and Ben Nobuto.

In 2021, Manchester Collective made their Royal Albert Hall debut as part of the BBC Proms Festival and are currently Resident Artists at the Southbank Centre in London. In 2023, they won the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Ensemble Award.



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Jasmin Kent Rodgman
Co-artistic director,
Manchester Collective

CHAINES

CHAINES (Cee Haines) is an Oram Award-winning composer, arranger, improviser, multi-instrumentalist and multimedia artist who writes surreal, fantastical electronic and electro-acoustic music. As a classically-trained musician with broad musical tastes, CHAINES' work embraces both the beauty of acoustic instruments and the vast potential of digital technologies.

Recent works such as *The Rite of Autopsy* (featuring GBSR Duo) and *Crystalqueer* (in collaboration with Liza Bec) combine skilful instrumentalism with live signal processing and sound reactive visuals to create immersive, ambitious, one-of-a-kind musical experiences.

The live, semi-improvised version of their 2018 album *The King* was described by *The Guardian* as 'a mesmeric collage of ecclesiastical beauty and creeping dread'. CHAINES' fascination with art and technology has additionally led them into the realms of visual art and game design, creating the esoteric *Beethoven Simulator* for Classical Remix in 2021.

CHAINES is also an imaginative orchestrator and arranger who has worked on numerous BBC Proms projects with the conductor Robert Ames and the London Contemporary Orchestra. Past BBC Proms orchestration projects include Anoushka Shankar's *Chapters*, JADE and the Royal Northern Sinfonia at The Glasshouse, the *Everything Everywhere All At Once* Suite for *Reel Change* and *Tribute to Pokémon*, *Ecco* and *Secret of Mana Suite* for *From 8-bit to Infinity*. They have also arranged orchestral forces for artists such as Speakers Corner Quartet and violinist Galya Bisengalieva.

CHAINES is currently undertaking doctoral research at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK, where they also teach Sound Art and Composition with Technology.

LAURA VAN DER HEIJDEN

Laura van der Heijden is widely recognised as one of the leading cellists of her generation. Winner of the 2025 Royal Philharmonic Society Instrumentalist Award, she is celebrated for her perceptive interpretations and imaginative programming.

She opened the 2025/26 season as Artist in Residence at Scotland's Lammermuir Festival, with concerto appearances including the Ulster Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Philharmonie Zuidnederland and Pilsen Philharmonic, alongside a play/direct project with Sinfonia Cymru. Chamber highlights include performances at Wigmore Hall, Saffron Hall and Amsterdam's Concertgebouw with the Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective; collaborations with Her Ensemble at Ronnie Scott's; and UK recital tours with pianist Jâms Coleman.

Since winning BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2012 aged 15, Van der Heijden has established an international career, working with conductors such as Sir Andrew Davis, Nicholas Collon, Gemma New and Karl-Heinz Steffens. Recent concerto appearances include the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Scottish Chamber Orchestra, alongside a play/direct programme with Britten Sinfonia. Recital engagements have taken her to venues and festivals including the Cello Biënnale Amsterdam, Pierre Boulez Saal and Bad Kissingen.

A committed advocate for new music, she has premiered works by composers including Lara Weaver and Gavin Higgins, and gave the world premiere of Cheryl Frances-Hoad's *Earth, Sea, Air* in 2023, later reprised at the BBC Proms. A Chandos artist, her latest recording features this work alongside Bridge and Walton.

A member of the Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective, Van der Heijden collaborates widely and performs on a late 17th-century cello by Francesco Ruggieri of Cremona.

THE CAMBERWELL INCREDIBLES

Josephus Conteh, Andrew Cove, Nicola Edwards, Charlene Francis, Isabel Gouveia, Lan Hoang, Danny Lucas, Karen Murphy, Gillian O'Brien, Daniel Reid, Ed Thompson, Blue Tierney, Seana Toland, Keith Widdows

The Camberwell Incredibles is an arts collective of arts facilitators and adults with learning disabilities. They run an innovative programme where they focus on putting people with learning disabilities at the heart of the local community. They are based in Trinity College Centre, Camberwell, and are part of the charity Cambridge House. Together they put on art exhibitions, festivals, tea parties, events, performances; you name it. All of their work stems from the interests of the individual group members, where they respond and develop everyone's personal interests. They are a close-knit group made up of wonderful eccentric characters who all support each other through thick and thin. They are always looking for volunteers, so if you fancy joining them, please do get in touch.

CREATIVE TEAM

Manchester Collective, Thick & Tight, Laura van der Heijden, CHAINES co-creators
Thick & Tight choreography
CHAINES composition
Jasmin Kent Rodgman creative direction
Bethany Gupwell lighting design
CHAINES video design
Tim Spooner costume and screen design
Matt Gadsby sound engineer
Charly Dunford lighting programmer and re-lighter
Camilla Greenwell, Mike Skelton additional videography
Jonas Roberts producer
Daniel Hay-Gordon film creation and poetry support (Camberwell Incredibles)
Tink Flaherty access consultancy for film and script work

Ed Thompson poetry (Camberwell Incredibles)
Anna Baines, Isabelle Cole, Paul Coombs, Ed Oaks, Jade Searby, Jess Wear, Robin Whitmore support staff (Camberwell Incredibles)
Michael Kitchin, Eve Veglio-Hüner producers (Thick & Tight)

MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE

Linda Begbie chief executive
Jasmin Kent Rodgman co-artistic director
Rakhi Singh co-founder and co-artistic director
Declan Kennedy executive producer
Joanne Karcheva brand & communications director
Jonas Roberts senior producer
Pareesa Tai campaigns & content manager
Will Baldwin-Pask marketing support
Flora Davison and Maddie Castell (RDMR) public relations
Camilla Greenwell and Mike Skelton campaign film and photography

Co-produced and commissioned by the Southbank Centre

FIND OUT MORE

- ▶ Manchester Collective
- ▶ Laura van der Heijden
- ▶ Thick & Tight
- ▶ CHAINES
- ▶ The Camberwell Incredibles
- ▶ southbankcentre.co.uk