

**SOUTHBANK
CENTRE**

MELTDOWN

Press Release

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Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images: available to download [here](#)

Harry Styles reveals first acts for his curation of *Meltdown* festival in the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary year

Devonté Hynes, Kamasi Washington, Warpaint, Mulatu Astatke, Nilüfer Yanya, Jon Hopkins, bar italia and more to feature



The Southbank Centre today announces the first names in the line-up for **Harry Styles' Meltdown**, taking place 11–21 June 2026 as part of its 75th anniversary year.

Curated by **Harry Styles**, the festival spans the Southbank Centre's multi-venue site, bringing together a wide-ranging line-up of artists across electronic, jazz, pop and experimental music.

As part of his curation, Harry Styles will also perform a headline show at the Royal Festival Hall on 16 June 2026, with full details to be announced soon.

Commenting on his curation of the festival's line-up, Harry Styles said: *"Music is my life, every artist involved in this year's Meltdown festival means so much to me, both as a fan, and a musician. It's a true honour to host legends who have paved the way for the generations that follow them, as well as new acts that have inspired me to push my creative boundaries. There are some incredibly unique, one-of-a-kind performances planned and the Southbank Centre is such a special place to experience live music. I hope attendees and performers have an unforgettable time this year at Meltdown. I can't wait!"*

Meltdown opens on Thursday 11 June with a Royal Festival Hall gig from **Warpaint** (their only show in 2026), whose immersive atmospheric live shows set the tone for a festival shaped by community and connection. The opening weekend sees **Stephen Fretwell** perform on Friday 12 June in the Purcell Room, bringing his characteristically honest and deeply personal songwriting to an intimate setting. Later that evening, **Ninajirachi** takes over the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer,

building a late-night set of shimmering synths and club energy. **Shabaka Hutchings** and special guests present a one-off collaborative performance in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, rooted in improvisation and musical exchange.

On Saturday 13 June, **Erika de Casier** fills the Royal Festival Hall with an evening of intimate, dreamy pop. Erika returns to the Southbank Centre having previously performed in its free gig series, *futuretense*, which showcases future sounds from emerging talent. That evening, **Foushée** delivers a spellbinding gig in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, with a genre-blurring set that moves between alternative R&B, rock and experimental sound.

On Sunday 14 June, **Kamasi Washington** presents two performances at the Royal Festival Hall – *Jazz Legends Reimagined*, revisiting and reshaping canonical works, and *Fearless Movement Live*, a sweeping, full-ensemble show rooted in spiritual jazz and cinematic composition. In the Queen Elizabeth Hall, **Nilüfer Yanya** delivers a set that moves between angular guitar work and intimate vocal moments, balancing restraint and emotional intensity.

On Tuesday 16 June, **Getdown Services** bring their raw, high-energy live show to the Purcell Room, while Styles himself performs at the Royal Festival Hall. Details for Harry's headline gig are to be announced soon. On Wednesday 17 June, **Mulatu Astatke** takes to the Royal Festival Hall, bringing his pioneering Ethio-jazz sound to the festival – a richly textured blend of jazz, funk and traditional Ethiopian music, led by one of the genre's defining figures

On Thursday 18 June, **Beverly Glenn-Copeland** performs at the Royal Festival Hall, bringing a deeply personal and expansive body of work that blends folk, ambient and electronic music into a set that is quietly profound and emotionally resonant. **bar italia** bring a genre-blurring sound, which shifts between lo-fi textures, indie rock, folk and experimental pop, to the Queen Elizabeth Hall, while on Friday 19 June, **Orlando Weeks** takes to the venue for his only solo live show of 2026, combining music and visual storytelling in a performance that moves between song and narrative. At the Royal Festival Hall, the **Devonté Hynes Ensemble** – featuring **Devonté Hynes**, **Adam Tandler**, **Cæcilie Trier** and **Tariq Al-Sabir** – presents a special performance that blends contemporary composition, classical instrumentation and experimental arrangements.

The final weekend kicks off on Saturday 20 June with **Yussef Dayes** at the Royal Festival Hall and **Jon Hopkins** joined by **Maddie Ashman** and **Leo Abrahams** for special improvised performances in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. That evening, **James Murphy** takes over the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer for a late-night set, bringing his unmistakable blend of electronic, punk and dancefloor energy to the festival's closing weekend.

Alongside the line-up of gigs, a **free programme of participatory events** unfolds across the site, inviting audiences of all ages to gather, engage and explore. It will feature a mix of appearances from Styles' favourite artists beyond music, outdoor performances, as well as family-friendly activity, including hands-on workshops.

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, said: *“As we celebrate our 75th anniversary year at the Southbank Centre, it's incredibly exciting to see the artists in Harry Styles' Meltdown line-up come together. Their breadth speaks to Harry's deep curiosity about music and his wide-ranging passions, moving fluidly across genres, generations and scenes. What's striking is the sense of connection behind the programme: you can feel the care and intent in every choice. It's a line-up - including of course Harry himself - that promises to deliver a classic Meltdown festival, and an opportunity to see Harry's artistic world manifested in a brand new way for audiences.”*

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.

Harry Styles' Meltdown is a highlight of the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary programme. The programme includes **You Are Here** – a spectacular takeover of the site created, directed and designed by Danny Boyle, Paulette Randall, Gareth Pugh and Carson McColl (3 May), **Dua Lipa's London Literature Festival** (11 - 21 June), and **Anish Kapoor** returning to the Hayward Gallery (16 June - 18 October). The onsite activity is joined by a national programme of art, literature and music – aiming to reach 1 million people in over 40 towns and cities across all four nations of the UK.

Harry Styles' Meltdown takes place 11 – 21 June 2026. Tickets go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on Thu 9 April and for general sale on Fri 10 April. Further line-up details, including on-sale details for Harry Styles' own headline gig in the Royal Festival Hall, to be announced soon. www.southbankcentre.co.uk/meltdown

- ENDS -

For more information and media requests:

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Images: available to download [here](#)

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Listings (further events to be announced):

Warpaint

Thu 11 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £38.50. For ages 14+.

Stephen Fretwell

Fri 12 Jun, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £23.50. For ages 14+.

Shabaka & Friends

Fri 12 Jun, 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £28.50. For ages 14+.

Ninajirachi

Fri 12 Jun, 11pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer. Tickets from £23.50. For ages 18+.

Erika de Casier

Sun 13 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £28.50. For ages 14+.

Fousheé

Sat 13 Jun, 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £28.50. For ages 14+.

Kamasi Washington: Jazz Legends Reimagined

Sun 14 Jun, 3pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £48.50. For ages 14+.

Kamasi Washington: Fearless Movement Live

Sun 14 Jun, 8pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £48.50. For ages 14+.

Nilüfer Yanya

Sun 14 Jun, 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £28.50. For ages 14+.

Getdown Services

Tue 16 Jun, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £28.50. For ages 14+.

Mulatu Astatke

Wed 17 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £38.50. For ages 14+.

Beverly Glenn-Copeland

Thu 18 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £36. For ages 14+.

bar italia

Thu 18 Jun, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £28.50. For ages 14+.

Devonté Hynes Ensemble

Fri 19 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £38.50. For ages 18+.

Orlando Weeks

Fri 19 Jun, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £28.50. For ages 14+.

Yussef Dayes

Sat 20 Jun, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £48.50. For ages 14+.

Jon Hopkins with Maddie Ashman and Leo Abrahams

Sat 20 Jun, 4pm and 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £28.50. For ages 14+.

James Murphy

Sat 20 Jun, 11pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer. Tickets from £38.50. For ages 18+.

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 (2,700 seats) 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.