

# Highlights

April

May

June

Festivals, music, dance,  
performance, literature, visual arts

Festivals for the World  
**SOUTHBANK CENTRE**

# **WELCOME TO SOUTHBANK CENTRE**

This spring at Southbank Centre, you can hear international music collaborations at Alchemy, discuss the philosophy of mortality at Belief and Beyond Belief or see hip-hop dance at Urban festival – and much, much more. Throughout April, May and June, we have a line-up of thought-provoking festivals bringing together music, art, literature and performance for audiences of all ages.

Pick up our monthly listings guide to see what's on every day of the month, and check our website to discover and book the full range of events in every festival.

Read on to find out more about highlights coming up here soon.

Jude Kelly CBE, Artistic Director

| <b>Features</b>          | <b>PAGES</b>   |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Urban festival</b>    | <b>5 – 8</b>   |
| <b>Alchemy</b>           | <b>9 – 13</b>  |
| <b>Meltdown</b>          | <b>14 – 19</b> |
| <b>Classical Music</b>   | <b>20 – 25</b> |
| <b>Highlights</b>        | <b>26 – 31</b> |
| <b>Nordic Matters</b>    | <b>32 – 33</b> |
| <b>While you're here</b> | <b>34 - 37</b> |

What's happening at Southbank Centre? Sign up for email updates about events, news and offers at [southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk)

\* No transaction fees for in-person bookings or Southbank Centre Members and Supporters Circles. For other bookings transaction fees apply: £1.75 online; £2.75 over the phone.

**At Urban festival, our concrete playground is taken over by breakdancing battles, dance residencies, free family events and parties showcasing art and artists inspired by the city.**

### **Tap Jam**

Gather to see astounding tap dancers performing the original street dance in a special jam event hosted by ace hooper

Junior Laniyan.

Friday 7 April, 5.30pm, Central Bar at Royal Festival Hall,  
Free

### **Hip Hop With A View**

Start the day with a hip-hop workout on Royal Festival Hall's roof. Take in the iconic views as you feel the burn.

Saturday 8 April, 10am, Royal Festival Hall Roof, £10\*, for ages 16+

# **URBAN**

**Saturday 1 – Monday 17 April**

‘Artists have always been inspired by cities and that’s what Urban festival is all about’

**Louisa Pestell, Programmer**

## **Guerilla Gardening**

Are you a budding city gardener? Learn how to make the most of outside space in our roof garden workshop.

Saturday 8 April, 12 noon & 2pm, Level 5 Balcony,  
£5\*, for ages 8+. All children must be accompanied by an adult

## **Fun DMC**

Get partying with child-friendly hip-hop, funk and disco anthems at a bloc party hosted by Spin Doctor.

Sunday 9 April, 1.30pm,  
The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall, Free, for all ages

## **Tongue Fu for Kids**

Bring your youngsters to a kids' version of one of the UK's leading spoken word shows.

Sunday 9 April, 3pm, Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall,  
£10\*, for ages 7–10

## **Vogue Workshop & Club Night**

Join MC and DJ Jay Jay Revlon for a night of vogue, including a Vogue Fem workshop followed by a party featuring special vogue performances.

Friday 14 April, 7pm, The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall, Free

## **Craft in the City**

Create a spectacular city of the future entirely out of cardboard with artists from Animate Arts Company.

Saturday 15 April & Sunday 16 April, 11am, The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall, Free, Children must be accompanied by an adult

## **Global Voices Trail**

Hear eight of the world's leading youth choirs perform across our site.

Monday 17 April, 10.30am - 1pm, Free

Get into popping and locking, hear spoken word or come here as a family. Visit our website to find out more about our Urban events.

[southbankcentre.co.uk/urban](http://southbankcentre.co.uk/urban)



# **ALCHEMY**

Friday 19 – Monday 29 May

Our festival has become a platform for artists from around the world to share their stories'

**Rachel Harris, Festival Curator**

Alchemy is our festival showcasing the dynamic cultural connections between South Asia and the UK. From headline shows in Royal Festival Hall to brand new works in progress, encounter contemporary dance, performance, music, art, comedy and literature from international and British artists.

### **Ravi Shankar's opera: Sukanya**

Myth, music and dance meet in Sukanya, a love story taken from the Sanskrit texts of the Mahabharata.

Friday 19 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall,

£15 - £50\*

Sukanya is a co-production between the Royal Opera House, London Philharmonic Orchestra and Curve Leicester.

## **Karachi Literature Festival**

Taking place outside Pakistan for the first time, Karachi Literature Festival is a day of talks, literature and performances that brings the country's literary scene to life. Saturday 20 May, 10.30am – 6pm, Royal Festival Hall, Day Pass £20\*

## **Conditions of Carriage – The Jumping Project**

See ten dancers from across India perform on the roof of Royal Festival Hall. They negotiate the force of gravity in a square pit as they jump, walk, sit and stand with rhythmic precision. Choreographed by Preethi Athreya.

Sunday 21 May, 12 noon & 7pm at Royal Festival Hall Roof, £15\*

## **The Diary of a Hounslow Girl**

Ambreen Razia's play highlights the challenges of being brought up as a young woman in a traditional Muslim family alongside the temptations and influences of London.

Tuesday 23 & Wednesday 24 May, 7.15pm, Blue Room at Royal Festival Hall, £15\*, for ages 14+

## **Samhāra: Nrityagram Dance Ensemble with Chitrasena Dance Company**

See world-renowned dance ensembles bring together two dance traditions that began in temples as ritual performance, in the Samhāra project with live music.

Friday 26 May, 7pm, Royal Festival Hall, £20\*

## **Beats Without Boundaries**

A major new international music collaboration bringing together rappers and producers from five countries.

Friday 26 May, 9pm, The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall, Free Commissioned by Southbank Centre in partnership with the British Council and Alchemy national partners: Black Country Touring, Cast Doncaster and Oldham Coliseum Theatre.

## **Vishal & Shekhar**

Creators of the modern Bollywood sound, this musical duo have composed music for 60 lms and released over 300 songs.

Saturday 27 May, 7.15pm, Royal Festival Hall, £10 – £125\*  
Presented by Rock On Entertainment.

## **Ra Peer Mystic Music Su Festival: Abida Parveen**

Abida Parveen is one of the nest Su vocalists of the modern era. Hear her sing ghazals accompanied by percussion and harmonium, using a repertoire of songs by Su poets.

Sunday 28 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, £10 – £120\*

## **Mawaan Rizwan: Twerk in Progress**

Laugh along with comedian Mawaan Rizwan's brand new collection of absurd songs and trippy poems. A joyous celebration of the profound meaninglessness of life.

Sunday 28 May, 8pm, Blue Room at Royal Festival Hall, £10\*

Discover the full festival programme on our website as well as videos and interviews with past Alchemy performers

\* No transaction fees for in-person bookings or Southbank Centre Members and Supporters Circles. For other bookings transaction fees apply: £1.75 online; £2.75 over the phone.

# **BELIEF AND BEYOND BELIEF**

**Monday 16 January – Saturday 16 December**

Throughout 2017, Southbank Centre and the London Philharmonic Orchestra explore what it means to be human. Belief and Beyond Belief explores the music, art, culture, science, philosophy, ritual and traditions that have risen out of religion in its many guises.

## **Prophets, Visionaries and Power**

The fourth part of our year-long festival asks questions about the relationship between religion and politics. Come to our day of talks and workshops to hear answers from writers, faith and community leaders, academics and scientists including Elif Shafak and Indarjit Singh. Saturday 8 April, 11.30am – 11pm, Royal Festival Hall, £15\*

**Heaven and Earth: London Philharmonic Orchestra**

Bruckner first heard the opening of his Seventh Symphony in a dream – played by an angel. For conductor Marek Janowski, there's no more fitting prelude than some of Wagner's most overwhelmingly emotional music.

Wednesday 26 April, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, £10 – £65\*

\* No transaction fees for in-person bookings or Southbank Centre Members and Supporters Circles. For other bookings transaction fees apply: £1.75 online; £2.75 over the phone.

'Belief alters individuals and reality and should therefore be handled with care'

**AL Kennedy, writer appearing at Belief and Beyond Belief**

### **The Colin Currie Group performs Reich**

Steve Reich's percussion piece Drumming is paired with the joyous Tehillim, which incorporates vocals inspired by cantillation, the ritual chanting of the Hebrew Bible at synagogue. Reich specialists

The Colin Currie Group perform.

Friday 5 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, £12 – £38\*

### **Hymn to Joy: London Philharmonic Orchestra**

Beethoven called his Ninth Symphony 'a kiss for all the world'. Regular guest conductor Christoph Eschenbach pairs it with a freshly minted work by Composer in Residence Magnus Lindberg.

Saturday 6 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, £10 – £65\*

### **For Good or For Ill – how has religion shaped society?**

Hear panels debate how faith has influenced the way we live together. How do we weigh up the music, art and social cohesion inspired by religion against discrimination and violence committed in the name of a God?

Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 May, 11.30am – 11pm, Royal Festival Hall, Day Pass £15\*, Weekend Pass £25\*



Get an overview of topics we're discussing throughout 2017.

[southbankcentre.co.uk/beliefandbeyondbelief](http://southbankcentre.co.uk/beliefandbeyondbelief)

## **M.I.A.'S MELTDOWN**

**Friday 9 – Sunday 18 June 2017**

Rapper, producer, director and visual artist M.I.A. curates this year's Meltdown. Her albums have topped critical charts with their politically conscious lyrics and inimitable genre-blending. Her accolade-studded musical career features influences ranging from nu rave and dancehall to hip-hop from around the world.

## **Young Fathers**

The Mercury Prize-winning trio bring their raw energy and unique sound with a show especially created for Meltdown.

Friday 9 June, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall,

£20 – £25\*

### **MHD/Mr Eazi**

Get ready for African sounds and danceable beats as French rapper MHD and rising Afrobeat star Mr Eazi play a one-off double bill for Meltdown. Sunday 11 June, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, £25 - £35\*

### **I Wayne/Dexta Daps**

Jamaica's Dexta Daps and I Wayne bring reggae and dancehall to Meltdown in this double-bill. Thursday 15 June, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, £20-£30\*

### **Young M.A**

Brooklynite rapper Young M.A, known for her smash single 'OOOUUU,' makes her UK debut. Saturday 17 June, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, £25-£30\*

## **M.I.A.**

The Meltdown curator closes the festival with a special  
Royal Festival Hall performance. Sunday 18 June, 7.30pm,  
Royal Festival Hall,  
£25 – £50\*

Check our website for the full line-up  
[southbankcentre.co.uk/meltdown](http://southbankcentre.co.uk/meltdown)

Be the first to hear about new acts and get access to the  
best seats. Become a Member.  
[southbankcentre.co.uk/membership](http://southbankcentre.co.uk/membership)

\* No transaction fees for in-person bookings or Southbank  
Centre Members and Supporters Circles. For other  
bookings transaction fees apply: £1.75 online; £2.75 over  
the phone.

I plan to bring together music's best forward thinkers who  
have contributed to all our lives. When music acts as  
inspiration, it's boundary-less'

M.I.A.

## **CLASSICAL MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS**

With over 60 classical events taking place, Director of Music Gillian Moore introduces her personal choice of concerts in April May and June.

‘There is nothing like sitting in a concert hall with a couple of thousand other people and feeling like you're practically breathing together, that your pulse is in sync with your fellow listeners as you focus intently on the performance on the stage. The greatest performances do this to us, and the greatest music affects the way we experience time and connects us to something beyond ourselves.

Southbank Centre's year-long Belief and Beyond Belief festival provides some great opportunities to experience composers who have reached for this ineffable, sometimes overtly spiritual realm in their music.

Gustav Mahler struggled with questions of belief all his life. His gigantic Eighth Symphony provided him with a huge canvas on which to work through his spiritual questions. It opens with a Medieval hymn invoking the holy spirit and ends with a blazing chorus, complete with huge orchestra and organ.

Much darker regions of the human psyche are explored in Duke Bluebeard's Castle, Béla Bartók's one-act opera of psycho-sexual horror in which a young bride gradually realises that her husband has dark secrets. The music drips with darkness and fear, its sinewy harmonies and creepy sound effects predating Im noir scores. An all-Hungarian cast and orchestra is directed by the charismatic conductor Iván Fischer. Another young bride is at the centre of an opera premiere by the late legend of Indian classical music, Ravi Shankar. Southbank Centre's Alchemy provides the stage for this tale from the Mahabharata on 19 May, bringing together the London Philharmonic Orchestra with Indian classical musicians and an international cast of singers.

Cultural influences go both ways. Debussy wrote his *Fantaisie for Piano and Orchestra*, performed by Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Philharmonia Orchestra on 4 May, just after hearing a Javanese Gamelan at the 1889 Paris Exhibition. He was intoxicated by the sound of this ensemble of gongs and metallophones and wrote: “If one listens to it without being prejudiced by one’s European ears, one will find a percussive charm that forces one to admit that our own music is not much more than a barbarous kind of noise more fit for a travelling circus.”

Debussy’s sparkling orchestration reveals him as a master of orchestral colour, and the Italian composer Respighi is also known for painting vivid pictures in sound. In his tone poems, *The Pines of Rome* and *The Fountains of Rome*, Respighi uses his mastery of the orchestra to paint vivid, full colour picture postcards of his adopted city. Sir Antonio Pappano conducts the Santa Cecilia Orchestra and dynamic young pianist Yuja Wang on 11 May’.

## **Our resident orchestras**

Southbank Centre is home to four Resident Orchestras. Between them they give around 100 concerts here each year, from the Baroque to the brand new.

Philharmonia Orchestra

London Philharmonic Orchestra

London Sinfonietta

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Vladimir Jurowski conductor

Tallis: Spem in ariam

Mahler: Symphony No.8 (Symphony of a Thousand)

Saturday 8 April, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall,

£12 - £75\*

### **Philharmonia Orchestra**

Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor Pierre-Laurent Aimard piano

Debussy: Ibéria, No.2 from Images Boulez: Notations

Debussy: Fantaisie for piano & orchestra; La mer Thursday

4 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall,

£11 - £55\*

### **Orchestra of Santa Cecilia**

Sir Antonio Pappano conductor Yuja Wang piano Rossini:

Overture, The Siege of Corinth Tchaikovsky: Piano

Concerto No.1 Respighi: Fountains of Rome; Pines of

Rome Thursday 11 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall,

£15 - £85\*

### **Budapest Festival Orchestra**

Iván Fischer conductor Béla Bartók: Hungarian Peasant

Songs, Duke Bluebeard's Castle

Tuesday 23 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, £10 - £65\*



Watch interviews with this season's artists, including Maurizio Pollini, Boris Berezovsky and Alexander Gavrylyuk.

[southbankcentre.co.uk/classical](http://southbankcentre.co.uk/classical)

\* No transaction fees for in-person bookings or Southbank Centre Members and Supporters Circles. For other bookings transaction fees apply: £1.75 online; £2.75 over the phone.

## **MORE HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Gigs, literature, dance, and performance**

Explore beyond our festivals... Spring at Southbank Centre brings individual appearances by world-class artists to our stages and performance spaces. Roll up, roll up, whether you're in the mood for folk guitar or electronica, literary readings or a poetry workshop, epic Chinese dance or politically charged performance.

## **Literary Death Match**

The world's favourite literary game returns to Southbank Centre, as four brilliant authors read their best writing before a panel of three celebrity judges. Featuring Nish Kumar, Tahmima Anam and Inua Ellams.

Wednesday 5 April, 7.30pm, Level 5 Function Room at Royal Festival Hall, £12\*

## **Expanded Translation**

Hear Forward Prize-winning poet Vahni Capildeo and Michael Zand, author of *The Messier Objects*, read their work and discuss ideas around expanded translation.

Monday 10 April, 6.30pm, The National Poetry Library at Royal Festival Hall, Free but ticketed. More details online

## **The Legend of Mulan**

Hong Kong Dance Company performs an exquisite retelling of The Legend of Mulan featuring dynamic battle scenes.

This tour-de-force dance production has garnered accolades in Hong Kong, New York and Sydney. Saturday

15 April, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall,

£12 – £38\*

## **An Ambient Evening with the Orb & friends**

Electrical Come on a four-hour journey of non-stop music with ambient house pioneers, The Orb, and their friends.

Friday 21 April, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall,

£25 – £30\*

## **Telling Her Story: Poetry Workshops for Women of Colour**

Rachel Long, leader of the Octavia Poetry Collective, which recently appeared at WOW festival, returns with her workshop series for women of colour, including sessions on Asian and African poetry.

Monthly, Tuesday 25 April – Tuesday 26 September,  
6.30pm, Level 3 Function Room at Royal Festival Hall, £10,  
ages 18+. For BME women only. More details online at  
[southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk)

### **Cock and Bull**

Three women perform their own alternative party  
conference, responding to the empty promises of politicians,  
in this impassioned performance piece.

Tuesday 25 – Sunday 30 April, 7.30pm, Spirit Level  
at Royal Festival Hall, £15\*

### **South Bank Poetry Tour**

Accompany Southbank Centre's Poetry Librarian Chris  
McCabe on a tour exploring the centuries of poetic activity  
in this area of London.

Thursday 27 April, 6pm, The National Poetry Library at  
Southbank Centre,  
£8.50\*

## **Primo Levi: If This Is A Man**

To mark the 70th anniversary of its publication, AL Kennedy and Philippe Sands lead a live reading of Primo Levi's powerful account of survival at Auschwitz. The performance features former editor of The Guardian Alan Rusbridger, Rwandan genocide survivor Liliane Umubyeyi and playwright Tom Stoppard.

Sunday 30 April, 3.15pm, Royal Festival Hall,  
£15 – £25\*

## **Maximo Park**

Hear all the hits as the Newcastle-based ve- piece perform a back catalogue spanning a decade, and tracks from their new album. Friday 12 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall,  
£20 – £30\*

## **Philip Glass and Laurie Anderson - American Style**

Laurie is one of America's most renowned creative pioneers, known for her multimedia presentations and musical recordings. Philip is one of the most prominent composers of the 20th century.

Hear his style collide with her mélange of vocals, text and experimental music.

Thursday 18 May, 8pm, Royal Festival Hall, £40 – £75\*

### **Ben Somers' Brass Hysteria**

Not just another New Orleans pastiche group – tap your toes to the infectious street brass band tunes of London-based musician Ben Somers.

Friday 2 June, Central Bar at Royal Festival Hall, Free

We have over 450 events in April, May and June.

Find the full listings on our website.

[southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk)

\* No transaction fees for in-person bookings or Southbank Centre Members and Supporters Circles. For other bookings transaction fees apply: £1.75 online; £2.75 over the phone

## **NORDIC MATTERS**

### **Throughout 2017**

The Nordic countries are Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the Åland Islands. Discover the art and culture of the region throughout 2017, find out more about sustainable food, communal singing, hygge, saunas, paternity leave and the struggle for gender equality.

### **Adventures in Moominland**

Join us on a journey through Moominland, clambering through forests, huddling in caves and setting sail on the high seas to try and find the Moomin family. Learn how Tove Jansson created these landscapes, characters and stories while uncovering original drawings.

Check our website for dates and times. Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall, for ages 7+



## **Falling Shawls**

Behold a floating textile installation that artist Outi Pieski describes as a 'drawing in air', handmade with traditional Sami techniques.

Thursday 16 February – Sunday 31 December, 10am, Level 2 Foyer at Royal Festival Hall, Free

## **Food Market Special: Nordic Larder**

Taste authentic Nordic street food, drinks and produce, as we host a variety of traders from across London's Nordic community. The Nordic Larder will be at the food market throughout 2017 with new guests every week. See Food Market for more details.

Which Nordic country exports more chart music than anywhere else in the world? Discover more about the region by reading our Nordic stories.

[Southbankcentre.co.uk/Nordic-matter](http://Southbankcentre.co.uk/Nordic-matter)

From mugs to prints to the original books, welcome the Moomins into your life.

[shop.southbankcentre.co.uk/moomins](http://shop.southbankcentre.co.uk/moomins)

## WHILE YOU'RE HERE

### **Eating and drinking**

Hungry? From cafes and sandwich shops to street food pop-ups, family-friendly restaurants and fine dining, our site offers a host of eating options for every taste and budget. Thirsty? We've got it covered, whether you fancy coffee or cocktails. [southbankcentre.co.uk/visit/cafes-restaurants-bars](https://southbankcentre.co.uk/visit/cafes-restaurants-bars)

### **Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden**

A green oasis atop the concrete Brutalist architecture, this is one of London's most beautiful gardens, open daily in the spring and summer months.

## **Archive Studio**

Get hands-on with our carefully preserved collection and help us tell the incredible story of Southbank Centre.

10.30am-1pm and 2-4.30pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and during Festivals and at other times for special events,  
Free

## **Southbank Centre tours**

Explore the Southbank Centre site on a guided Architecture Tour or Behind the Scenes Tour. Please find out more on our website.

## **Southbank Centre Food Market**

Our traders return with delicious street-food for every appetite. From 18 – 29 May treat your taste-buds as Kerb does Alchemy, with street food from South East Asia.

Friday, 12 noon – 8pm, Saturday, 11am – 8pm, Sunday, 12 noon – 6pm and Monday (bank holidays only), 12 noon – 6pm

## **Hayward Gallery**

Our world-renowned contemporary art gallery, Hayward Gallery, is currently closed for essential restoration. But you can still see visual art popping up across our site, like Jeppe Hein's Social Benches, across the site from 21 May, Falling Shawls and our immersive exhibition Adventures in Moominland.

The focus of the refurbishment project is to restore the 66 glass pyramid roof-lights in order to let controlled natural lighting into the upper galleries for the first time. Find out more about the renovation and how you can help Hayward Gallery on our website, [southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk).

What's in the Arts Council Collection? Find out online.  
[Southbankcentre.co.uk/venues/Hayward-gallery](http://Southbankcentre.co.uk/venues/Hayward-gallery)

To receive publications in alternative formats and further information, email [accesslist@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:accesslist@southbankcentre.co.uk) or phone 020 7960 4200

## **Who are we?**

We believe art has the power to help create a better world for everyone. That's why we began in 1951 on the South Bank of the Thames. Dreamed up after World War Two, the Festival of Britain gave the nation hope for a brighter future. Today, millions of people gather at our festivals to enjoy culture from around the world. We put on 5,400 concerts, gigs, exhibitions, shows and debates each year, half of them for free. Our work can be seen on six continents and in 37 towns and cities across the UK. Come and see for yourself.

Southbank Centre occupies a 17-acre site in the midst of London's vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. Southbank Centre includes Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, and Hayward Gallery. We also curate the outdoor spaces along the river front and around our venues providing free art for millions of people every year.

## **How to book**

### **Online**

[southbankcentre.co.uk](https://southbankcentre.co.uk)\*

### **By phone**

Tel: 020 7960 4200\* 9am – 8pm daily.

In person Royal Festival Hall Ticket Office 10am – 8pm daily.

\*Transaction fees applicable. No transaction fees for Members and Supporters Circles.

### **Access**

Southbank Centre is accessible to all and level access is available to all of our venues. Please see [southbankcentre.co.uk/access](https://southbankcentre.co.uk/access) for further details on all access information.

Supported using public funding by Arts Council England  
Southbank Centre is a registered charity no. 298909  
Listings correct at time of going to press.