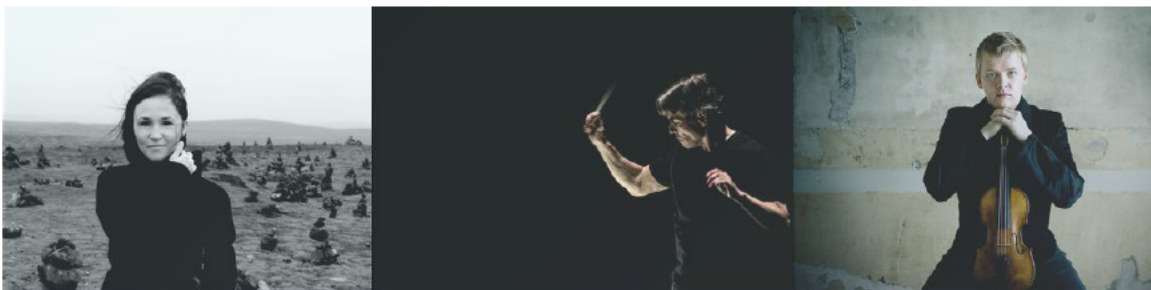


## ***Nordic Music Days* festival comes to the UK for the first time, at Southbank Centre**

*Thursday 28 September – Sunday 1 October 2017*

The world-famous contemporary classical festival ***Nordic Music Days*** will land on UK shores, and take over Southbank Centre's site, for the very first time this September.

The Nordic spectacular showcases pioneering contemporary compositions by Nordic composers and sound artists, performed by some of the UK's most exciting ensembles and soloists, alongside a wide-ranging programme of talks, workshops and family events. Almost all performances and events are free to attend.



*L-R - Anna Thorvaldsdottir; Esa-Pekka Salonen; Pekka Kuusisto*

The globally renowned contemporary classical music festival ***Nordic Music Days*** celebrates new Nordic music and was founded in 1888 to promote musical collaboration between the Nordic countries. Held annually in one of the Nordic capitals, ***Nordic Music Days*** will make its UK debut this year as part of ***Nordic Matters***, Southbank Centre's year-long exploration of arts and culture from across the Nordic regions. The festival introduces UK audiences to the best contemporary Nordic music, encourages collaboration between Nordic and UK musicians and composers, and provides a platform for experimentation through a series of workshops and performances. The festival will also see the return of **The Virtual Orchestra: Sibelius 360**, the acclaimed 360 degree virtual reality experience that places viewers at the heart of the Philharmonia Orchestra on the Royal Festival Hall stage.

### **Highlights include:**

- **Esa-Pekka Salonen** conducting the **Philharmonia Orchestra**, performing Sibelius' 6th and 7th Symphonies alongside works by contemporary Icelandic composers **Anna Thorvaldsdottir** and **Daniel Bjarnason** (28 September)
- A collision of cutting-edge electronica and visuals with traditional Nordic influences at **Late**

**Night Nordic Sounds**, featuring performances from Swedish artists **TMRW** and **Gidge**, with visuals by **Annie Tådne** (30 September)

- **The Riot Ensemble** presenting a concert of works by five Nordic contemporary composers including **Kaija Saariaho** from Finland, **Djuro Zivkovic** and **Ole Lützow-Holm** from Sweden, **Bára Gísladóttir** from Iceland and **Ruben Sverre Gjertsen** from Norway (30 September)
- Manchester's acclaimed ensemble **Distractfold** presenting a concert inspired by Nordic forests, using non-traditional instruments such as transducers and solenoids (29 September)
- One of the world's leading vocal ensembles for new music, **Exaudi**, performing joiks, the traditional folk songs of the Sami people, as well as a **Joik Big Sing** where visitors can get involved (29 September–1 October)
- Finnish musicians **Pekka Kuusisto** and **Ilona Korhonen** presenting a concert inspired by traditional Finnish music including runosong, the oldest known Fenno-Baltic singing style (28 September)
- A **large-scale musical sculpture** inspired by the colours and movement of the Northern lights, by British artist **Paul Jefferies** (28 September–1 October)
- The **Nordic Lights Lounge** - an immersive sonic experience that invites visitors to listen to electronic music by Nordic composers including **Ann Rosén**, **Osmo Tapio Räihälä**, **Mirjam Tally**, **Camilla Söderberg** and more (28 September–1 October)
- A free session of **Yoga** accompanied by Nordic music on the Clore Ballroom (30 September & 1 October)

*Nordic Music Days* also focuses on creative workshops for children and adults, encouraging experimentation and collaboration between Nordic and UK musicians. Each day throughout the festival, twenty composers and musicians from the UK and Nordic Countries are invited to short writing sessions led by **Martin Q Larsson**, composer and Artistic Director of Nordic Music Days, to create new pieces of music within one hour which will be performed in pop-up **Work in Progress** concerts across the site. **Music Maze** offers an innovative series of creative music-making workshops that offer young people of all abilities the chance to try their hand at composing music, with each workshop culminating in a live performance of an original piece on Southbank Centre's Riverside Cafe stage.

Talks and seminars throughout the festival will explore a wide range of topical issues in contemporary music today, including **New Music: The Burning Questions**, a three part series of seminars that explore issues for composers today from both a UK and Nordic perspective. Hosted by the Council of Nordic Composers, in collaboration with three UK music organisations, the **British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA)**, **Sound and Music** and **PRS Foundation**, these seminars include wide-ranging sessions on diversity and women in music, international opportunities for composers and artist-led programming.

# ENDS #

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More information here: [www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/nordic-music-days](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/nordic-music-days)  
Press images available [here](#)

## **FULL EVENTS LISTINGS BELOW**

**All events with the exception of the Philharmonia concert on 28 September are FREE.**

### **Throughout the festival**

#### **Northern Lights Lounge**

Thursday 5pm - 10pm, Friday and Saturday, 11.30am - 10pm, Sunday 11.30am - 6pm, the Sunley Pavilion

Visitors are invited to relax and enjoy electronic music by Nordic composers in the Northern Lights Lounge. Music from composers Ann Rosén, Osmo Tapio Räihälä, Mirjam Tally, Camilla Söderberg and many more will be accompanied by lighting effects to conjure up the feel of the Northern lights.

#### **Northern Lights Musical Sculpture**

Thursday 28 September - Sunday 1 October 2017, Level 2 Terrace, 11am - 6pm daily.

British artist and instrument maker Paul Jefferies is creating a large-scale public sculpture and musical instrument, inspired by the Northern lights. Audiences are invited to participate in playing the instrument and see performances on it.

#### **The Virtual Orchestra: Sibelius 360**

Thursday 28 September - Sunday 1 October 2017, Level 2 Foyer Green Side at Royal Festival Hall, various times, (below), free

The virtual reality Philharmonia returns for the opening weekend of the 2017/18 Classical Season, and for the *Nordic Music Days* weekend. Visitors can put on virtual reality headsets and headphones to be whisked out backstage into Royal Festival Hall, then on stage in the centre of the orchestra as Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts a performance of Sibelius' Fifth Symphony. New for 2017/18, Sibelius 360 offers a longer-form VR presentation with the full third movement of Sibelius' Symphony No.5, along with some exclusive scenes shot outside Royal Festival Hall. *The Virtual Orchestra: Sibelius 360* is produced through a partnership between the Philharmonia Orchestra, Inition, Music Sales and Southbank Centre. The project was conceived by the Orchestra and Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Thursday and Friday - 5pm - 10pm

Saturday and Sunday - 12pm - 7.30pm

### **Thursday 28 September 2017**

#### **Young People, Composing and Contemporary Music**

Thursday 28 September 2017, Level 3 Function Room, 1-2pm, free but ticketed

Hear from professionals on the approaches, challenges and successes when working with contemporary music and young people. Speakers include: Nancy Evans, Director of Learning & Participation for Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG); Martin Fautley, Professor of

Education, Birmingham City University and Judith Robinson, Creative Project Leader of education at Sound and Music.

**New Music: The Burning Questions – Diversity and Women in Music, hosted by Nordic Composers Council in collaboration with BASCA**

Thursday 28 September 2017, Level 3 Function Room, 3-4.30pm, free but ticketed

This is the first in a series of three seminars during Nordic Music Days which discusses current issues in contemporary music and composing, examining these topics from a Nordic and UK perspective. This session will explore gender equality and diversity in music. This session is hosted by The Nordic Council of Composers chaired by Martin Q Larsson, composer and Artistic Director of Nordic Music Days in association with BASCA - the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors.

**Pre-Concert Performance**

Thursday 28 September 2017, Clore Ballroom, 5.30pm - 6pm, free

Join us in the Clore Ballroom for the official launch of Nordic Music Days 2017 for a welcome talk with Martin Q Larson and Gillian Moore, music, joik singing and more.

**Pre-Concert Talk with Anna Thorvaldsdottir and Daníel Bjarnason**

Thursday 28 September 2017, Clore Ballroom, 6.15-7.00pm, Free

Hear two of the greatest living Icelandic composers, Anna Thorvaldsdottir and Daníel Bjarnason, in conversation with Gillian Moore, discussing their work ahead of the evening performance in Royal Festival Hall.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/121878-pre-concert-talk-anna-thorvaldsdottir-and-daniel-bjarnason-2017>

**Philharmonia Orchestra - Esa-Pekka Salonen: Sibelius**

Thursday 28 September 2017, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, 7:30pm, £11 - £55

Opening the 2017/18 season, Esa-Pekka Salonen places the work of two contemporary Icelandic composers alongside these two momentous works by Sibelius. Anna Thorvaldsdottir's Aeriality occupies the border between symphony and sound art, alongside, the UK premiere of Daníel Bjarnason's Violin Concerto.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/104037-philharmonia-orchestra-esa-pekka-salonen-sibelius-2017>

**Finnish Runosong with Pekka Kuusisto and Ilona Korhonen**

Thursday 28 September 2017, The Clore Ballroom, 9.30-10.15pm, free

Pekka Kuusisto and Ilona Korhonen present a unique perspective on traditional Finnish music. Korhonen sings archaic runosong, the oldest known Fenno-Baltic singing style.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/121307-finnish-runosong-pekka-kuusisto-and-ilona-korhonen-2017>

**Friday 29 September 2017**

**Work in Progress Pop-Ups**

Friday 29 September - Sunday 1 October 2017, Level 2 Riverside Cafe, 12.00-12.30pm, free

Throughout the festival, each day twenty composers and musicians from the UK and Nordic Countries are invited to short writing sessions led by composer Martin Q Larsson. After a short introduction, the participants split into small groups and are positioned around Southbank Centre to write new pieces of music within one hour. These new pieces will be presented and performed in these short concerts in Riverside Cafe.

### **Friday Lunch: In the steppes of Sápmi**

*Friday 29 September 2017, Central Bar at Royal Festival Hall, 1-2pm, free*

Hear one of the world's leading vocal ensembles for new music, Exaudi, perform joiks, the traditional folk songs of the Sami people of Sápmi. Traditional joiks are short melodies, performed without lyrics and with only a few words or phonetic syllables, and come from the sami people of Sápmi, the cultural region in northern Europe covering parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. This vast landscape is the inspiration for Swedish composer Ansgar Beste in creating the work opening this lunch concert. Other composers presented in this concert are Danish composers Madeleine Isaksson and Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/117854-friday-lunch-steppes-sapmi-2017>

### **Music Maze School Performance**

*Friday 29 September - Sunday 1 October 2017, Level 2 Riverside Cafe, 2-2.30pm, free*

Hear new pieces local schools have created as part of their Music Maze workshop day with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. Music Maze is a set of composing resources, each taking a different piece of contemporary classical music repertoire as their starting point. Throughout the morning, Nancy Evans, Director of Learning & Participation for Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) has introduced local school children to some of the processes composers use to write music and these groups have now created their own pieces, being performed for the first time at this concert.

### **New Music: The Burning Questions - Doing It Yourself – Artist-led programming and curation with Sound and Music**

*Friday 29 September 2017, Level 3 Function Room, 2.30-4pm, free but ticketed*

Examine artist-led programming and curation in contemporary music and composing from a Nordic and UK perspective, in the second in a series of three seminars during Nordic Music Days. This session is presented in collaboration with Sound and Music, the national charity for new music in the UK, whose mission is to maximise the opportunities for people to create and enjoy new music.

### **Nordic Forests**

*Friday 29 September 2017, Spirit Level (Blue Room), 7pm-8.15pm, 9.15-10.30pm, free but ticketed*

The young Manchester ensemble Distractfold and conductor Rei Munakata guide listeners through a musical forest with works by six contemporary Nordic composers. Besides regular instruments, Distractfold use objects, solenoids and transducers. The young ensemble Distractfold from Manchester specialise in performing instrumental, electro acoustic and mixed chamber music of the 21st century.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/121885-nordic-forests-2017>

## **Saturday 30 September 2017**

### **Music Maze Workshop**

*Saturday 30 September 2017, Blue Room, 10.30-1.30pm, free but ticketed*

Children aged 8-11 are invited to join a three hour workshop session to create a piece of contemporary music, and then perform what they have created on the Riverside Cafe stage. Presented in association with Music Maze, a set of composing resources, each taking a different piece of contemporary classical music repertoire as their starting point. This session, led by Nancy Evans, Director of Learning & Participation for Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) will take children through the processes composers use to help support the group to create their own music. All children are welcome, whether they play a musical instrument or not.

### **Yoga with Nordic Music**

Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October 2017, Clore Ballroom, 10.30am - 11.30am, free but ticketed

A free yoga session on the Clore Ballroom accompanied by invigorating and soothing Nordic Music to get visitors fully limbered and totally zen for the rest of the festival.

#### **a4-Room: Come and Play Nordic Music**

Saturday 30 September, Clore Ballroom, 3.30pm - 4.45pm, free

Visitors are invited to bring instruments or their voices and try out some contemporary Nordic pieces from the a4-room for the first time. The a4-room is a cross-border project between visual art, notated music and improvisation which was initiated in 2004 by Leif Jordansson for The Great Learning Orchestra. The initial invitation to composers was as an open invitation to contribute a piece for orchestra, with the only restriction that it should be written to fit on an A4 sheet of paper. Now this resource has grown into an archive with more than 140 compositions created by artists and composers from different genres from all over the world, which has become a unique insight into experimental music and its creative processes.

#### **Brass Walk**

Saturday 30 September, various locations, 12.45pm - 2pm, free

London Sinfonietta brass players take you on a walk through Southbank Center spaces, following a trail of brass music from Sweden, Denmark and Finland. The Brass Walk begins on Riverside Terrace.

#### **Music Maze Workshop Performance**

Saturday 30 September 2017, Level 2 Riverside Cafe, 1.30-2.00pm, free

Hear the new pieces young people have created as part of their Music Maze Workshop day with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

#### **New Music: The Burning Questions - International opportunities for composers, and their career impact with the Council of Nordic Composers in collaboration with PRS Foundation**

Saturday 30 September 2017, Level 3 Function Room, 3-4.30pm, free but ticketed

This is the final seminar in the series of during *Nordic Music Days* which discusses current issues in contemporary music and composing, examining these topics from a Nordic and UK perspective. This session will explore international opportunities for composers and their career impact. The session is hosted by The Nordic Council of Composers and chaired by Martin Q Larsson, composer and Artistic Director of Nordic Music Days, in association with PRS Music Foundation, whose mission is to stimulate and support the creation and performance of new music throughout the UK.

#### **Floral Night Episode**

Saturday 30 September, St Paul's Roof Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm and 9pm - 10.15pm, free but ticketed

An evening of brand new Nordic music, modern classics, an episode from James Joyce, and a Grawemeyer Music Prize winner, as The Riot Ensemble present works by five Nordic contemporary composers. The composers represented in the repertoire include Djuro Zivkovic and Ole Lützow-Holm from Sweden, Bára Gísladóttir from Iceland, Kaija Saariaho, Finland and Ruben Sverre Gjertsen, Norway. Led by a core group of twelve musicians, The Riot Ensemble is one of the few emerging ensembles in the UK to regularly commission and perform music by international emerging composers, presenting the young composers the ensemble commissions alongside exciting and established music.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/121880-floral-night-episode-2017>

## **Late Night Nordic Sounds**

Saturday 30 September 2017, Clore Ballroom, 10pm - midnight, free

Dive into inspiring, cutting-edge electronica and visuals, in between traditional Nordic sound and future club music, featuring Swedish artists TMRW and Gidge. Currently based in Stockholm, TMRW mixes experimental electronica and arty techno, in the spirit of The Knife and Burial. Gidge is a duo consisting of Jonatan Nilsson and Ludvig Stolterman from Umeå, a city in the north of Sweden. Accompanying the music are visuals by Annie Tådne, one of Sweden's most popular visual artists.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/121882-late-night-nordic-sounds-2017>

## **Sunday 1 October 2017**

### **With my ear to the ground**

Sunday 1 October 2017, St Paul's Roof Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall, 2pm - 3.15pm, free but ticketed

Members of The Riot Ensemble present delicate Nordic music for flute, piano, percussion, objects and electronics.

### **Várije, Towards the Mountains**

Sunday 1 October 2017, Central Bar and Riverside Terrace Cafe, 11.45am, 12.30pm and 1.45pm, free

UK girls choir and children's Joik Choir come together to create a special performance of Swedish composer Madeleine Isakson's piece *Várije*, conducted by Lotta Kuisma. The choirs have been taking part in workshops with the joik singers Cecilia Persson and Jörgen Stenberg.

### **Big Joik Sing**

Sunday 1 October 2017, Clore Ballroom, 12.45pm - 1.45pm, free

Learn the art of traditional Joik singing in this workshop open to all ages and abilities, led by joik singers Jörgen Stenberg and Cecilia Persson.

### **Come and Sing: Faroese Choral Piece**

Sunday 1 October 2017, Clore Ballroom, 2pm - 4.30pm (performance 5.15pm - 5.30pm), free

Join a mass amateur choir and learn a new choral piece specially written for Nordic Music Days. This afternoon workshop will take amateur singers through a new choral work written by Faroese Composer Unn Paturson. After a two hour workshop session this piece will be performed at 5.15pm to close the festival. Singers attending need to be able to read music to take part in this event, and parts will be provided on arrival.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About Southbank Centre**

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21 acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as The Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk). Southbank Centre is carrying out vital restoration work on the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room to make the buildings fit for future generations to enjoy, more information can be found here: [letthelightin.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://letthelightin.southbankcentre.co.uk)

## **Nordic Music Days**

The Nordic Music Days premiered in 1888 and is one of the world's oldest music festivals. Previously the festival has alternated between the Nordic capitals, but this year it is hosted by Southbank Centre in London. The festival is a part of Southbank Centre's year-long exploration of Nordic arts and culture *Nordic Matters*. The Nordic Music Days festival is presented by the Society of Swedish Composers and the Council of Nordic Composers, supported by the Nordic Cultural Fund, this year in cooperation with Southbank Centre, and the Swedish music organisation Musik i Syd and the festival Svensk Musikvår.

### **Featured composers include:**

Adam Vilagi (FI)  
Anders Hillborg (SE)  
Ann Rosén (SE)  
Anna Thorvaldsdóttir (IS)  
Ansgar Beste (SE)  
Bára Gísladóttir (IS)  
Bent Sørensen (DK)  
Bente Leiknes Thorsen (NO)  
Bergrún Snæbjörnsdóttir (IS)  
Camilla Söderberg (SE)  
Christian Winther Christensen (DK)  
Daníel Bjarnason (IS)  
Djuro Zivkovic (SE)  
Eyvind Gulbrandsen (DK)  
Hanna Hartman (SE)  
Henrik Denerin (SE)  
Jarkko Hartikainen (FI)  
Jean Sibelius (FI)  
Johan Svensson (SE)  
Kaija Saariaho (FI)  
Madeleine Isaksson (SE)  
Malin Bång (SE)  
Marcus Fjellström (SE)  
Mette Nielsen (DK)  
Mirjam Tally (EE/SE)  
Ole Lützow-Holm (SE)  
Osmo Tapio Räihälä (FI)  
Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen (DK)  
Ruben Sverre Gjertsen (NO)  
Simon Steen Andersen (DK)  
Tytti Arola (FI)  
Unn Paturson (FO)  
Øyvind Torvund (NO)

### **Ensembles**

Distractfold Ensemble (UK)  
Exaudi (UK)  
Gidge (SE)  
London Sinfonietta (UK)  
Philharmonia Orchestra (UK)



The Riot Ensemble (UKGB)

**Conductors**

Esa-Pekka Salonen (FI)

Lotta Kuisma (SE)

Rei Munakata (JP/SE)

**Artists and soloists**

Annie Tådne, visuals (SE)

Cecilia Persson, song (SE)