

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

MELTDOWN

Press Release

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Artist images: available to download [here](#)

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L-R: Speakers Corner Quartet © Marc Sethi; Chaka Khan © Jo Metson Scott; Mica Paris © Edward Cook

The **Southbank Centre** today announces the first names for **Chaka Khan's Meltdown**, taking place this summer **Friday 14 June until Sunday 23 June**. A rich selection of artists spanning jazz, R&B, soul and more, the line-up reflects the iconic influence of Chaka Khan and the global impact of her 50-year career.

Chaka Khan, the 29th curator of Meltdown, will be taking to the Royal Festival Hall stage for two very special performances. Opening the festival, Chaka Khan will play a set of hits from her mighty 50-year career, which features instantly recognisable songs such as 'Ain't Nobody', 'I'm Every Woman' and 'I Feel For You' (14 June, RFH).

Closing out her Meltdown curation, Chaka Khan will perform with the Black-led, genre defying **Nu Civilisation Orchestra** for the first-ever live performance of 2004's *ClassiKhan*, which was recorded at Abbey Road Studios (23 June, RFH). A celebration of the great American songbook, featuring classic jazz standards and iconic film anthems, including 'Hey Big Spender', 'Stormy Weather' and 'Diamonds Are Forever', this show will join a long list of truly unique, unmissable performances that have characterised Meltdown throughout its 29-year history.

In the Royal Festival Hall, **Chaka Khan's Meltdown** will also feature TV and Broadway star, campaigner and 'Nails, Hair, Hips, Heels' singer **Todrick Hall** (16 June) and Brixton's **Speakers Corner Quartet** (17 June), whose 2023 *Further Out Than the Edge* received huge critical acclaim, in a special collaboration with the **Guildhall Orchestra**. Meanwhile,

prodigious acid jazz group **Incognito** (19 June) celebrate 45 years of their debut album *Jazz Funk*, while one-to-watch **Lady Blackbird** (20 June) is expected to soar as audiences can expect new songs from her forthcoming record this fall. Trip hop duo **Morcheeba** (22 June) showcase their signature organic electronic sound, which has been border-hopping ever since the London-based band emerged as a household name with 1998's *Big Calm*, with support from **Cardinal Black**.

The Queen Elizabeth Hall will be rocked throughout the festival with the awesome power of soul and R&B with special appearances from **Rahsaan Patterson** (16 June), **Mica Paris** (19 June), **Judi Jackson** (20 June) and the **House Gospel Choir** (23 June). Meanwhile, hotly-tipped West African ensemble **Balimaya Project** (21 June) will stage a high energy show in the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer.

In addition to the main acts, Chaka Khan invites London-based Black and Black mixed heritage female and non-binary young people aged 18-25 years to apply to be part of the festival's unique choir, led by multidisciplinary artist and musician **Tawiah**. Performance opportunities will take place across the festival, giving participants the chance to work closely with internationally renowned artists both on and off stage. Full details on how to apply can be found [here](#).

Commenting on the first names for the festival, Chaka Khan said: 'It's an honor to share with you some of the brilliant artists that will be celebrating the diversity and legacy of Meltdown! We are all family. Get ready to sing, dance, and feel the love!'

Southbank Centre Head of Contemporary Music Adem Holness, added: People always ask me, "how involved do the Meltdown curators actually get?" Chaka has been in every detail with us, and we've had so much fun pulling this first selection of artists together. Chaka's taste, influences and love of music are as expansive as her voice and discography, so getting the balance and breadth right has been our biggest task. Whether it's Todrick's Fabulosity, Balimaya Project's groove or Lady Blackbird's soul, we're so excited to have such special artists join the festival and reflect different parts of her 50 year career.'

Tickets go on general sale Friday 15 March at 10:00am via:

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/gigs/chaka-khan-celebration-50-years-music>

Further names for **Chaka Khan's Meltdown**, including the full free programme, club nights and more will be announced in the coming months.

#ENDS#

Artist images: available to download [here](#)

EVENT LISTINGS

[Chaka Khan](#)

Friday 14 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7:30pm

[Todrick Hall](#)

Sunday 16 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7:30pm

[Rahsaan Patterson](#)

Sunday 16 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7:00pm

Speakers Corner Quartet

Monday 17 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7:30pm

Incognito

Wednesday 19 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7:30pm

Mica Paris

Wednesday 19 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7:00pm

Lady Blackbird

Thursday 20 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7:30pm

Judi Jackson

Thursday 20 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7:00pm

Morcheeba

Saturday 22 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7:30pm

Balimaya Project

Friday 21 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 7:00pm

Chaka Khan & Nu Civilisation Orchestra

Sunday 23 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7:30pm

House Gospel Choir

Sunday 23 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7:30pm

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#meltdownfest

Meltdown, 1993 – present

The Southbank Centre's award-winning Meltdown festival has been running annually since 1993 and is the longest-running artist-curated 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: 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, Grace Jones' 2022 Meltdown and Christine and the Queens' 2023 Meltdown were all nominated for the Music Week Awards' Festival of the Year with Smith's also winning the AIM Independent Music Awards 'Act of Independence' Award.

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) and six resident orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).

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