



Press Release

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Southbank Centre announces Autumn/Winter 2023/24 classical music programme including new Resident Artists



L-R: Randall Goosby © Jeremy Mitchel; Labeque sisters © Labeque; Patricia Kopatchinskaja © Alexandra Muravyeva

The **Southbank Centre** and its family of six Resident Orchestras, who together reflect the full spectrum of classical music, announces its Autumn/Winter 2023/24 programme. Continuing to bring the greatest symphonic, chamber music, and recital repertoire to our stages while championing classical music for the 21st century by presenting new works and unique experiences, the Autumn/Winter programme features a host of established and emerging talent.

Highlights include:

- New artist residencies from **Patricia Kopatchinskaja**, including a dramatic music theatre production of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* and chamber music featuring international collaborators, and **Randall Goosby**, exploring Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, interspersed with spoken word including original poems inspired by folk songs and spirituals in the Purcell Room, with a return for **Manchester Collective**

- Monumental choral works in the *Opening Weekend* from the **Philharmonia Orchestra** and the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** including Verdi's *Requiem* and Mahler's *Symphony No.2* conducted by Principal Conductors **Santtu-Matias Rouvali** and **Edward Gardner**, kicking off a programme of major symphonic repertoire
- Significant projects in the *Contemporary Edit* including Ligeti 100, marking György Ligeti's centenary, featuring **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** in recital, and in concerto with **London Sinfonietta**; **Aurora Orchestra** perform a new orchestration of **Manu Delago's** music, and new commissions and premiere performances throughout the year for **Jasmin Kent Rodgman** and **Elaine Mitchener**
- Ambitious new experiences from returning Resident Artists **Manchester Collective** with a classical club night of music from titans of minimalism including Steve Reich and Philip Glass, an immersive surround-sound installation by **Peter Gregson**, and **Paraorchestra's** *The Anatomy of the Orchestra: Drone Refractions*, in addition to **The Multi-Story Orchestra's** RPS award-winning *The Endz*
- Inspiring concerts exploring the full history of classical music from **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment**, who stage a new community opera featuring young people from Camden, and **Chineke! Orchestra** with **Joan Armatrading**; plus international guest **Michael Barenboim** leading the **West-Eastern Divan Ensemble**
- Piano recitals including **Víkingur Ólafsson** with Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, **Benjamin Grovesnor**, **Imogen Cooper**, and **Katia and Marielle Labèque**, and chamber music from our Resident Artists with guests **Reto Bieri**, **Polina Leschenko**, and **Zhu Wang**, in addition to **The Bevan Family Consort** including **Sophie and Mary Bevan**, and **Michael Collins** joined by close collaborators

Toks Dada, Head of Classical Music at the Southbank Centre, said: "*Classical music is an incredible, centuries-long story. As we share that story with audiences today, we're creating as many ways for as many different people as possible to experience this wonderful art form. We once again open Autumn/Winter 2023/24 with an exciting weekend that encapsulates the incredible breadth of classical music today, building on the success of our first Opening Weekend last year – during which we welcomed over 10,000 people across our spaces, many of whom visited the Southbank Centre for the very first time.*

Our Resident Artists Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Randall Goosby and recent RPS Award winners Manchester Collective are finding new ways to showcase work from the great classical music tradition, using their vision and artistic excellence to breathe new life into these works. Meanwhile, with our Resident Orchestras, we continue our commitment to celebrating the classical music canon, expanding it by championing unheard work and new commissions, whilst also collaborating on ambitious projects. With this programme, we're ensuring that classical music finds its way into the hearts of more people."

Mark Ball, Artistic Director at the Southbank Centre, added: "*This new season represents our commitment to presenting monumental works by our Resident Orchestras alongside projects that embrace innovation and point to the future. Whilst we must continue to celebrate the extraordinary classical canon, I'm particularly excited that throughout this season we are presenting new works in new formats to new audiences and supporting artists who will define classical music for future generations to be bold and ambitious."*

Opening Weekend

Classical music is an integral part of the Southbank Centre, and the *Opening Weekend* will celebrate the full breadth of the art form today.

The weekend will feature two major choral works, with Resident Orchestra the **Philharmonia Orchestra**, performing Verdi's *Requiem* (21 Sept, RFH), and Resident Orchestra the **London**

Philharmonic Orchestra performing Mahler's *Symphony No.2* with soprano **Sally Matthews**, mezzo-soprano **Christine Rice** and the **London Philharmonic Choir** (23 Sept, RFH). Former Southbank Centre Resident Artist and star of 2022/23, **Víkingur Olafsson**, arrives in London launching his global *Goldberg Variations* tour (22 Sept, RFH). Returning Resident Artists, **Manchester Collective**, make their season debut with a double bill beginning with *Different Trains*, featuring work by Barber, Steve Reich, Cassandra Miller and a world premiere by **Jasmin Kent Rodgman** co-commissioned by the Southbank Centre and Manchester Collective (22 Sept, QEH). They will then move into the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer for a classical-inspired club night featuring music from titans of minimalism including Steve Reich and Philip Glass.

The *Opening Weekend* will also feature organist **Carol Williams** in *Mad Rush* (23 Sept, RFH) with a programme of organ classics, jazz arrangements, and Williams' own compositions, **The Multi-Story Orchestra** performing its RPS award-winning *The Endz* (23 Sept, QEH) telling the story of two friends torn apart by gang violence in London, and a new version of its immersive *Living Programme Notes* (24 Sept, Clore Ballroom) providing a deep dive into classical music for young people and their families. The **Philharmonia Orchestra** appears a second time during the weekend with a programme including Shostakovich's *Concerto for piano, trumpet & strings* featuring pianist **Seong-Jin Cho** and the Philharmonia's Principal Trumpet **Jason Evans** (24 Sept, RFH). **The Hermes Experiment** make their *Opening Weekend* debut (24 Sept, PUR), including a new work by composer **Elaine Mitchener**, commissioned by the Southbank Centre. Lastly, violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja**, one of the new Resident Artists for 2023/24, will close the weekend (24 Sept, QEH) with her international trio featuring clarinetist **Reto Bieri**, and pianist **Polina Leschenko**, with a programme including a new work composed by Kopatchinskaja herself.

Artist Residencies

Continuing to support established and emerging artists, the Southbank Centre's artist residency programme provides a valuable platform for musicians to explore their craft and creativity. In addition to her *Opening Weekend* appearance, **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** will perform Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* over two nights (2-3 Dec, PUR) in a special theatrical staging of the work. Fellow violinist **Randall Goosby** also joins as a Resident Artist for 2023/24. His first performance includes pianist **Zhu Wang** (13 Oct, QEH), with whom he collaborated on his debut album, *Roots*. The pair return in the New Year alongside violist/narrator **Jameel Martin** and cellist **Eddie Pogossian** for a literary inspired concert ahead of the T. S. Eliot Prize, also held at the Southbank Centre, where they will perform works by Coleridge-Taylor, Perkinson and Previn interspersed with spoken word including original poems inspired by folk songs and spirituals (14 Jan, PUR). Finally, in addition to their appearance in the *Opening Weekend*, **Manchester Collective** will present *LAD*, an arrangement of Julia Wolfe's *LAD* originally for nine bagpipes, alongside works by Bach and Steve Reich (27 Oct, PUR).

Further concerts, including appearances alongside Southbank Centre Resident Orchestras, and new Resident Artists will be announced later this year as part of Spring/Summer 2024.

Captivating concerts of symphonic works

In addition to their large scale *Opening Weekend* concert, the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** is joined by a slew of guest conductors and soloists including **Anna Lapwood** in Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No.3* with **Julian Joseph** performing his own improvisatory solos in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* (22 Nov, RFH). Other highlights include welcoming new Composer-in-Residence **Tania León**, Principal Guest Conductor **Karina Canellakis** conducting Shostakovich's *Symphony No.8* (28 Oct, RFH), and **Anja Bihlmaier** conducting the overture of Wagner's *Flying Dutchman* (27 Jan, RFH). The **Philharmonia Orchestra** has two Featured Artists this season, violinist **Nicola Benedetti** and

soprano **Julia Bullock**. **Nicola Benedetti** joins under the helm of **Christian Macelaru** for an evening of Brahms, Nico Muhly and Rachmaninov (1 Oct, RFH). As part of the Philharmonia's series *Let Freedom Ring: Celebrating the Sounds of America*, Benedetti returns with Principal Conductor **Santtu-Matias Rouvali** (9 November, RFH) with a programme of Duke Ellington, Gershwin, and Wynton Marsalis' *Violin Concerto*, violinist and conductor **Leonidas Kavakos** performs Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* and Dvořák's *Symphony No.8* (5 Nov, RFH) and **Esa-Pekka Salonen** conducts **Mitsuko Uchida** in his first return since stepping down as Principal Conductor (25 Jan, RFH).

Chineke! Orchestra makes its first appearance of Autumn/Winter 2023/24 with an evening of Haydn, Bologne, Beethoven (15 Oct, QEH) before returning with singer-songwriter **Joan Armatrading** for the world premiere of her *Symphony No.1* (24 Nov, QEH). The **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** appears at the Southbank Centre with a concert framed by symphonies from the beginning and end of Haydn's career, tracing his passage from young trailblazer to one of the greatest composers in the world (25 Oct, QEH), as part of a theme around beginnings and endings, examining our notions of catalogues, completeness and musical stories. In addition, **BBC Concert Orchestra** perform Sibelius' *Symphony No.7* alongside Nyman and Lopez (12 Oct, QEH), while **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** appear with their Music Director **Vasily Petrenko** presenting a programme including Elgar's *Symphony No.1* (29 Oct, RFH).

International guests

The **West-Eastern Divan Ensemble**, led by **Michael Barenboim**, will return to the Southbank Centre with repertoire by Carter, Mendelssohn and Beethoven (11 Nov, QEH). The ensemble draws upon players of the **West-Eastern Divan Orchestra**, founded in 1999 by Daniel Barenboim and the late Palestinian literary scholar Edward W. Said to promote coexistence and intercultural dialogue. An equal number of Israeli and Arab musicians form the base of the ensemble, together with members from Turkey, Iran and Spain.

New work and major 20th century figures in the 'Contemporary Edit'

Alongside performances from **The Hermes Experiment** and Resident Artists **Manchester Collective**, the *Contemporary Edit* continues to champion new work of the 21st century alongside major voices of the 20th century in classical music. A day-long celebration of György Ligeti will see pianist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** perform a solo recital of Ligeti's *Études*, his *Chromatische Phantasie* and *Musica Ricerata* (14 Oct, QEH) before Aimard joins Resident Orchestra, the **London Sinfonietta**, in the evening to perform Ligeti's *Piano Concerto* (14 Oct, QEH). In addition to concerts, there will also be a series of free talks and events exploring Ligeti and his work (14 Oct, QEH Foyer). The following month, the **London Sinfonietta** hosts *21st Century Voices* featuring extracts of Henze's *Voices* song cycle, originally commissioned by the group in 1973, with new protest songs and new commissions from **Tanya Auclair**, **Anna Korsun**, **Riikka Talvitie**, **Charles Uzor**, **Tyshawn Sorey** and **Mariam Rezaei** (25 Nov, QEH). Resident Orchestra, **Aurora Orchestra**, will collaborate with acclaimed Austrian percussionist **Manu Delago** in a brand-new orchestration of his 2021 album *Environ Me*, dubbed *Environ Us*, with animations by Ola Szmida (11 Oct, QEH). The **Philharmonia Orchestra's** hugely popular free *Music of Today* events continue, including a concert featuring the music of Canadian composer Ana Sokolović (19 Oct, PUR). To close the *Contemporary Edit*, Resident Orchestra **London Sinfonietta** marks its 56th anniversary with a special concert featuring a mix of new commissions and classic chamber repertoire written specially for the ensemble over the years (24 Jan, PUR).

Alternative Experiences

Beyond the *Opening Weekend* with **Manchester Collective** and **The Multi-Story Orchestra**, Autumn/Winter 2023/24 features a wealth of eye-opening ways to experience classical music. In another exciting double bill, the **Carducci Quartet** perform all four of **Peter Gregson's** *Quartets* accompanied by Gregson himself on electronics (4 Nov, PUR) before Gregson, on cello, and the quartet are bolstered by additional string players in the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer for a 360-degree surround sound experience (4 Nov, QEH Foyer). Part sound installation, part immersive concert, **Paraorchestra** will present *The Anatomy of the Orchestra: Drone Refractions* where audiences will be able to walk amongst the players creating their own unique mix during the performance including reconfigurations of John Cage's *Seventy-Four* and Pauline Oliveros' *The Last Time* (26 Jan, CBR).

Family Programme

For families, in addition to **The Multi-Story Orchestra's** next instalment of *Living Programme Notes* during our *Opening Weekend* (24 Sept, Clore Ballroom) and later in the year (26 Nov, QEH Foyer), the **London Philharmonic Orchestra's** FUNharmonics event explores Stravinsky's *Firebird* (29 Oct, RFH) while the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's** OAE Tots concerts return (14 Jan, RFH) as well as a special community opera (17 Jan, QEH). A reworking of *The Fairy Queen*, combining Purcell's 1692 work with an original score by **James Redwood** and libretto by **Hazel Gould** (the team behind OAE's community opera, *The Moon Hares*, from 2022), the piece is designed to be performed in any location. For its London performance, it will include performers from Acland Burghley School, Camden and around the UK.

Intimate chamber music and piano recitals

In addition to performances by Resident Artists **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** and **Randall Goosby**, **The Bevan Family Consort** including **Sophie and Mary Bevan** perform sacred choral music (26 Nov, QEH), and clarinettist **Michael Collins** is joined by pianist **Andreas Haefliger** and the **Talich Quartet** for a concert of late Brahms works (13 Jan, QEH). Meanwhile, breathtaking piano recitals will see the likes of **Benjamin Grovesnor** performing works by Bach, Gubaidulina, Liszt and Chopin (18 Oct, QEH) and **Imogen Cooper** with repertoire featuring Bartók, Dowland and Thomas Adès' *Darknesse Visible*, based on the Elizabethan lute song by John Dowland, *In Darknesse Let Me Dwell* (1 Dec, QEH) while **Katia and Marielle Labèque** close Autumn/Winter 2023/24 with a programme of works for four hands and piano duo by Debussy, Schubert, Ravel and Philip Glass (28 Jan, RFH).

MORE FROM THE SOUTHBANK CENTRE RESIDENT ORCHESTRAS

Aurora Orchestra

More concerts from Aurora Orchestra at the Southbank Centre will be announced later this year as part of the Spring/Summer 2024 programme.

Chineke! Orchestra

More concerts from Chineke! Orchestra at the Southbank Centre will be announced later this year as part of the Spring/Summer 2024 programme.

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Other highlights include **John Dalene** performing Sibelius' *Violin Concerto* (27 Sept, RFH), **Robin Ticciati** conducting Mahler's *Symphony No. 3* with **Alice Coote**, the **London Philharmonic Choir** and **Trinity Boys Choir** (25 Nov, RFH), Florence Price's *Violin Concerto No. 2* performed by LPO Co-Leader **Pieter Schoeman** (29 Nov, RFH), **Renée Fleming** performing seasonal songs (2 Dec, RFH), an evening of John Williams' music with violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter**

(13 Jan, RFH), and Beethoven's *Symphony No.7*, and Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 20* featuring pianist **Martin James Bartlett** (27 Jan, RFH).

London Sinfonietta

The London Sinfonietta explores new musical worlds through exciting collaborations and pays tributes to the giants of contemporary music whose music helped the ensemble forge its reputation. Two genre stretching collaborations follow – one with **Nwando Ebizie** who is creating a new work for both hearing and deaf audiences to experience through sound, dance and vibrations, while the ensemble is reunited with “marvel” Norwegian saxophone virtuoso **Marius Neset** to perform his “elemental” third composition, *Geyser*, as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival (QEH, 17 Nov). Autumn/Winter 2023/24 also sees the London Sinfonietta return to international touring post-pandemic, with performances at the Beijing Music Festival and in Norway.

Philharmonia Orchestra

Let Freedom Ring: Celebrating the Sounds of America celebrates the dazzling diversity of American music, the creative crosscurrents between classical music and jazz, and the musicians whose distinctive sounds have shaped their country's identity. Spanning works from Dvořák's *New World Symphony*, composed in New York in the 1890s, to Wynton Marsalis's 2015 *Violin Concerto*, alongside well-known composers such as Aaron Copland, George Gershwin and Duke Ellington, *Let Freedom Ring* also features composers who deserve a wider audience outside the US, such as Margaret Bonds, James P. Johnson and William Grant Still. Leading lights of American jazz, including the **Marcus Roberts Trio**, **Ravi Coltrane** and **Esperanza Spalding** perform (19 Nov, RFH) alongside classical trailblazers including conductor **Marin Alsop**, who, along with Sir John Eliot Gardiner, was recently announced as the Philharmonia's Principal Guest Conductor, as well as featured artists violinist **Nicola Benedetti** (9 Nov, RFH) and soprano **Julia Bullock** (23 Nov, RFH).

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

The OAE puts its commitment to its residency at Acland Burghley School, where it is based in north London, at the heart of its programme as part of an ongoing mission to make experiencing creativity a normal part of growing up in the UK. The Orchestra performs the complete Christmas Oratorio by JS Bach over two nights with guest conductor **Masaaki Suzuki** (2-3 Dec, QEH) and soloists including **Anna Dennis**, **Hugh Cutting** and **Guy Cutting**.

ENDS

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About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is Europe's largest arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. The Royal Festival Hall is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture should be available and accessible to everyone – remain its guiding principles today. It is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and excellent artistic programme across our four venues and free outdoor spaces that covers visual arts, music of all kinds, dance, performance and spoken word. It's home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) and six resident orchestras.



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