



Press Release

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Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images: [here](#)

London's major new performance series *Purcell Sessions* announces more events at the Southbank Centre in 2022



Credits L-R: Isobel Waller-Bridge / Martha Skye Murphy / Luke Lewis

“Breathe a sigh of relief, live music is back with a bang” - London X London
“A dreamy venue to play in” - Lyra Pramuk
“...you’re invited to see the unexpected happen” - London Planner Magazine

- The Southbank Centre’s *Purcell Sessions* extends its **year-long programme** of artistic exploration and collaboration with a sought-after lineup of pioneering UK and international artists
- *Purcell Sessions* sees artists unleash their creative spirit - from **audiovisual installations** to **cross-genre concepts** - in the incomparable Purcell Room
- 2022 additions to *Purcell Sessions* include **Isobel Waller-Bridge, Martha Skye Murphy, Ayanna Witter-Johnson, Soumik Datta, Secretsundaze, Drew McDowall** and more
- One-off collaborative performances from the **London Contemporary Orchestra** with **Roger Eno, Penelope Trappes** and **Hinako Omari**
- World premieres from the **London Sinfonietta** with **Luke Lewis** and **Alicia Jane Turner** and UK premieres from the **Arditti Quartet**

The Southbank Centre today announces additional performances for its new artistic series, ***Purcell Sessions***. The Purcell Room opens its doors for curious audiences to witness

artists explore new creative frontiers - whether it's presenting bold audio-visual installations, giving a first-look at new material, or developing multimedia collaborations across music, dance, visual art and the spoken word.

Purcell Sessions' breadth of art forms is represented in today's new roster of events for 2022. This will include a new album performance from **Martha Skye Murphy**, works-in-progress from **Soumik Datta** and **Secretsundaze**, a long durational improvisation from the band **caroline, Seder**: a multidisciplinary, performative piece from poet **Adam Kammerling**, and a collaborative Earth Day event focused on the climate crisis from **Tongue Fu - Hot Poets**.

Purcell Sessions will also play host to the UK debut performance from **Isobel Waller-Bridge**, as well as **Ayanna Witter-Johnson** (who's just supported Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli on tour) who will explore the rich musical legacy of her Jamaican heritage. The London Contemporary Orchestra will perform debut collaborations with pianist and composer **Roger Eno**, Australian ethereal soundscaper **Penelope Trappes** and Japanese producer **Hinako Omori**. As part of their *Then & Now* concert, the **London Sinfonietta** will perform two world premieres from composers **Luke Lewis** using speech transcription software and **Alicia Jane Turner** with theatrical immersive staging, and the **Arditti Quartet** will perform three UK premieres as part of SoundState Festival including a new commission by Tansy Davies.

The 2022 line-up also includes the return of **Out-Spoken** - London's monthly premiere evening of poetry and music, dedicated to showcasing emerging multidisciplinary artists alongside established names, including poets **Holly Pester**, **Fiona Benson**, **Iisa luxx**, **Rishi Dastidar**, **Emily Berry** and many more. The full second wave of acts announced today can be seen in the listings below.

They join the already announced performers for 2022 - enigmatic electronic producer **Iglooghost**, an audio-visual collaboration on the meaning of water from musician **Nabihah Iqbal** and visual artist **Libby Heaney**, São Paulo-raised electronic musician **Laima**, Singaporean ethereal-pop artist **yeule** and south London singer-producer **Jamie Isaac**.

Since launching in September with a **Sarah Davachi x London Contemporary Orchestra** collaboration, highlights from *Purcell Sessions* so far have included spellbinding futuristic folk from **Lyra Pramuk**, a mesmerising collaboration between Sri Lankan producer **Gnarly** and Irish Indian poet **Nikita Gill**, the visionary performer **BISHI** launching her new album, the American composer **Laurel Halo** experimenting new musical ideas with the LCO and ambient pioneer **Gigi Masin** sweeping us away to the mythical Greek island of Ogygia with his kaleidoscopic compositions.

Bengi Ünsal, Head of Contemporary Music at the Southbank Centre, said: *"We've had a fantastic response to the inaugural Purcell Sessions from audiences who have witnessed artists explore new creative territories, experiment with innovative ideas on stage and forge cross-genre collaborations with fellow performers. This second wave of artists continue to represent today's most adventurous and ambitious talent, with one-off events that showcase creative freedom. From Isobel Waller-Bridge to Martha Skye Murphy, there are sure to be some stand-out cultural moments for 2022."*

Tickets for the newly added performances go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on Thursday 2 December and to the general public on Friday 3 December.

Neil Cowley

4 - 5 December 2021

The BBC Jazz Award-winning pianist Neil Cowley pushes out into the ambient, electronic and neoclassical waters of his debut solo album released earlier this year, *Hall of Mirrors*. The album explores in-depth Neil's close relationship with the piano in what he describes as his inner, reunified voice.

Coby Sey x LCO

8 December 2021

South London club vocalist Coby Sey teams up with the masterful London Contemporary Orchestra to bring a new angle to his dreamlike electronic compositions and introspective lyrics. Coby duetted with Tirzah earlier this year on her album *Colourgrade*, as well as hosting a monthly show on NTS.

FAUZIA

11 - 12 December 2021

The British-Somali DJ-producer premieres a new live show and installation connected to her Somali heritage. FAUZIA performs her jungle-tinged downtempo pop on 11 December, before immersing the Purcell Room with an audio-visual experience on 12 December focusing on her Somali musical influences through interactive light and sound.

caroline

15 January 2022

The eight-person, London-based band will host a long durational performance, allowing for a deep improvisational composition to form and tying in with the band's roots and their weekly improvisational sessions. Audiences can come and go as they please, catching different iterations of caroline with no experience being the same at any point.

Soumik Datta: Arts Rising

20 January 2022

Energising and uplifting, the virtuoso producer and sarod musician will present a call-to-action show to explore the meeting point between the climate emergency and social injustice. Alongside an ensemble of musicians and dancers, Soumik will also give an exclusive preview of a new work "*Hope Notes*," created in residence at the Southbank Centre.

Iglooghost

22 - 23 January 2022

The enigmatic electronic musician gives a rare, intimate performance of material from his latest concept *Lei Music* on 22 January. This will be followed by an audiovisual installation on 23 January - an other-worldly museum engulfing the Purcell Room that archives the story of *Lei Music*, a lost tradition capable of summoning squeaky entities from invisible zones.

Out-Spoken: January

27 January 2022

Out-Spoken is London's premiere evening of the best in UK poetry and live music. January's edition will include sets from Jamaican poet Jason Allen-Paisant, Guardian First Book

Award-winner Andrew McMillan, Forward Prize-winner Mona Arshi and music from rising alt-R&B vocalist Benny Atlas.

Nabihah Iqbal x Libby Heaney: Cascade

29 - 30 January 2022

Musician Nabihah Iqbal and visual artist, quantum physicist Libby Heaney bottle the sights, sounds and meaning of water in an audio-visual performance. Through field recordings of the Thames, AI-generated sounds and visuals, Iqbal and Heaney explore the materiality, history, rituals and symbolism attached to rivers and water.

Then & Now

6 February 2022

The London Sinfonietta premieres works by Luke Lewis and Alicia Jane Turner, created as part of the ensemble's Writing the Future composer development programme. Lewis' *The Echoes Return Slow* uses speech transcription software to spark a conversation between distant lost voices talking of national identity, whilst Turner's *Tell me when you get home* is a theatrical piece with immersive staging to explore gendered experiences of walking home at night.

Laima

9 - 10 February 2022

São Paulo musician and activist Laima gathers ten women from the creative industries to present a performative manifesto and Q&A on their role in the industry on 9 February. Laima performs live on 10 February, focusing on humans' function of healing after collective trauma by drawing on the Southbank Centre's history of helping London to recover post-WWII.

Penelope Trappes x LCO

23 February 2022

Australian-born ethereal soundscaper and vocalist Penelope Trappes brings her brooding compositions to collaborate with the London Contemporary Orchestra. Penelope is known for her signature gothic dreamlands that are equally shoegaze pop and surrealist soundscapes, having worked alongside fashion house Fendi as well as Mogwai, Cosey Fanni Tutti and Nik Colk Void.

Out-Spoken: February

24 February 2022

February's edition will include sets from Forward Prize-nominated Holly Pester, Jerwood-Compton fellow Anthony Joseph and multiple prizewinner Fiona Benson.

Martha Skye Murphy

26 February 2022

Coinciding with the release of her experimental opera, *Postcards Home* is a series of live field recordings using the voice to usurp the in-built settings of analogue synths. An eerie spectacle for the eyes and ears, Martha's performance will follow a free interactive art exhibition she has curated for the Purcell Room which investigates the presence of lost information by her creative partner and sister, Ceidra Moon Murphy.

yeule

5 - 6 March 2022

Singaporean artist yeule owns the stage with their ethereal pop on 5 March. With a launchpad, keyboard and microphone they morph their original cinematic classical compositions into electronica. yeule will also create an AI-integrated installation running throughout the weekend, blurring the lines between personal space and the outside world.

WOOM: Into The Rest

10 March 2022

The London-based vocal group, known for their lush reworkings of songs by Frank Ocean and OutKast showcase their upcoming EP, playing with an orchestral quartet for the first time. Their past touring partners have included King Krule, Whitney and The Big Moon.

Hinako Omori x LCO

19 March 2022

Having just released her debut album, Hinako Omori will collaborate with the virtuosic London Contemporary Orchestra on her material. Originally from Yokohama, Japan, Hinako has worked with Ed O'Brien, Kae Tempest, Georgia, James Bay and Sophie Hunger. Hinako also hosts *Near Momentary*, a monthly show on Worldwide FM with Kloxii - exploring identity and heritage through music that helped them reconnect to their roots.

Out-Spoken: March

24 March 2022

March's edition will include sets from British and Syrian poet-activist Lisa Luxx, poet and chair of Spread the Word Rishi Dastidar and The Poetry Review editor Emily Berry.

jean-michel blais: aubades

27 March 2022

In support of his new album *aubades*, the Montreal-based pianist and composer writes and performs with a string ensemble for the first time. blais is known for his soundtrack for the Xavier Dolan-directed film *Matthias & Maxime*, earning him a gold record from the Cannes Soundtrack Award.

Arditti Quartet

2 April 2022

The Arditti Quartet, champions of contemporary chamber music for over 40 years, perform UK premieres from Betsy Jolas, Tansy Davies and Christian Mason as part of SoundState Festival.

Mark Knoop

2 April 2022

London-based pianist Mark Knoop is known for his fearless performances, reinterpreting standard and 20th-century repertoire vividly and commissioning countless new works. At *Purcell Sessions* he will premiere a new work from the multi-genre influenced Akiko Ushijima, as well as perform material from the American maverick Conlon Nancarrow and Adelaide-born Matthew Shlomowitz.

Seder

20 April 2022

Based on Adam Kammerling's poetry collection of the same name, Seder is a multidisciplinary performance piece on the narrative of KinderTransport evacuee Thomas Kammerling and his family. Equally joyful and harrowing, this immersive performance piece reflects on the rituals we have for retelling our histories as well as developing our own, pulling in stories of Malay and Chinese mixed heritages, contemporary dance, breaking and poetry.

Out-Spoken: April

21 April 2022

April's edition will consist of performances from the six shortlisted poets of the prestigious Out-Spoken Prize For Poetry ahead of the announcement of the overall winner on the night.

Earth Day: Tongue Fu - Hot Poets

22 April 2022

Hot Poets partner brilliant spoken word artists with scientists, NGOs and change-makers to share hopeful stories amidst the fight against climate change. To celebrate Earth Day, Tongue Fu will bring their work to life with a genre-hopping improvised soundtrack and film to help tell the climate change narrative but with a beat.

JFDR x Kieran Brunt x Benjamin Glorieux: The End of Infinity

23 April 2022

Icelandic singer-songwriter/producer JFDR, British composer/singer Kieran Brunt and Belgian cellist/composer Benjamin Glorieux embark on an hour-long song cycle exploring the relationship between classical and electronic music and our outlook on mortality.

Drew McDowall

30 April 2022

Following a career of innovative experiments in music and an elastic discography, NYC-based Scottish electronic musician Drew McDowall brings his new album, *Agalma*, to *Purcell Sessions*. Drew's latest work is potentially the apex of his recent discography, shifting strings, piano, pipe organ and choral masses into disorienting synthetic mirages of the sacred.

Vivier: Love Songs

7 May 2022

Toronto-based Soundstreams present a selection of Claude Vivier's most sincere and blazingly original songs for both piano and percussion - music that sings of love, religion, the universe and the central questions of life. The performance also includes the world premiere of Canadian composer Christopher Mayo's personal homage to Vivier.

Roger Eno x LCO

14 May 2022

BAFTA nominated Roger Eno's discography spans over three decades and 25 albums - his most recent being *Mixing Colours*, the critically acclaimed 2020 album with brother Brian. He has also contributed to the films *Trainspotting*, *Dune* (dir. David Lynch) and *The Jacket*. Eno's live performances are a celebration of the avant-garde in a blending of mood with uniquely haunting backdrops, proving a seamless fit to collaborate alongside the London Contemporary Orchestra for a bespoke performance.

Isobel Waller-Bridge

18 May 2022

In her debut UK show, award-winning composer and pianist Isobel Waller-Bridge will perform brand new and existing works for *Purcell Sessions*. Isobel is known for her scores for the television series *Fleabag* and *Black Mirror* and for the films *Munich - The Edge Of War* and *Emma*. She has also collaborated with iconic fashion houses Alexander McQueen, Simone Rocha and principal ballerina at the Royal Opera House, Francesca Hayward.

Ayanna Witter-Johnson

8 - 9 June 2022

Classical / R&B fusion cellist and vocalist Ayanna Witter-Johnson will explore the rich musical legacy of her Jamaican heritage and UK 'lovers rock' music in an evening of new works, reimagined classics and storytelling, with special surprise performances from her family and friends. Ayanna has recently finished supporting Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli on his U.S. tour.

Join the conversation:

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NOTES TO EDITORS**For further press information please contact:**

press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Imagery from some previous *Purcell Sessions* can be found [here](#).

About Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).



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