

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Images: [HERE](#)

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## April 2026 Listings



Clockwise L-R: *Symposia*, Image © Out-Spoken; *National Youth Orchestra*, Image © Chris Christodoulou; *Undercroft Skate Space, 1978*, Image © Tim Leighton Boyce, Jim Slater, Southbank. Images courtesy The Read and Destroy Archive; *Circa: Art of Fugue*, Image © David Kelly.

Following an acclaimed debut year, the Southbank Centre's multi-artform festival powered by orchestral music, *Multitudes*, returns with a staggering programme blending tradition and cutting edge innovation (16 – 30 Apr). The programme unites all six of the Southbank Centre's Resident Orchestras, reimagining the orchestral music experience by fusing it with fashion, dance, film, circus and visual art.

The worlds of heavy metal and orchestral music collide in the **Philharmonia Orchestra's** *Forged in Sound: Heavy Metal Orchestrated* (22 Apr), *Un-natural Harmony: Sounds of Lee Alexander McQueen* reimagines the music which inspired Lee Alexander McQueen's most iconic fashion runways in a live orchestral setting (29

– 30 Apr), and **Aurora Orchestra** perform Stravinsky's radical *The Rite of Spring* entirely from memory in *The Rite by Heart* (16 Apr).

In celebration of 50 years of the Undercroft Skate Space, the Southbank Centre presents **Skate 50** (30 Apr - 21 Jun), a multimedia exhibition exploring the history of the iconic skateboarding space under the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the communities it has fostered over the past half century. Developed alongside members of the skateboarding community, *Skate 50* utilises photography, moving image and sound to delve into the stories that have shaped what is widely considered to be the birthplace of British skateboarding.

Launching in April, **Southbank Centre Tours** (Wed 8 Apr – Fri 26 Jun) mark 75 years of the Royal Festival Hall with expert guided tours offering an exclusive glimpse into the secrets, stories and design innovations of our buildings, exploring the history of our site from its birth for the Festival of Britain in 1951 to the present day.

*Spring Family Fun* (1 Apr – 31 May) returns for the Easter holidays, bringing a fun-filled schedule of free and paid events for young people and families to enjoy. Highlights include *The Koala Who Could* (1 – 5 Apr), a chuckle-out-loud outback adventure based on the bestselling picture book about taking a chance, and *The Boy at the Back of The Class* (7 – 12 Apr), a heartfelt and often hilarious play exploring friendship, kindness and compassion based on the best-selling novel.

On site, our seasonal offerings expand with the opening of the **Roof Garden** and the **Roof Garden Bar & Kitchen** on 1 April. This space invites visitors to enjoy the lengthening spring evenings with panoramic views and a refreshed menu.

In the Hayward Gallery, **Yin Xiuzhen: Heart to Heart** and **Chiharu Shiota: Threads of Life** (17 Feb – 3 May) continue, showcasing two innovative and globally celebrated artists who use ordinary materials to create extraordinary works on a monumental scale. All new *Hayward Gallery Lates* (1 Apr) offer the unique opportunity to experience the gallery after-hours, with spotlight tours and performances by alumni from the National Poetry Library-led New Poets Collective.

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## EXHIBITIONS

### Visual Arts | [Yin Xiuzhen: Heart to Heart](#)

Tue 17 Feb – Sun 3 May, Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm, Closed on Mondays, Hayward Gallery. Tickets from £19.

### Visual Arts | [Chiharu Shiota: Threads of Life](#)

Tue 17 Feb – Sun 3 May, Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm, Closed on Mondays. Hayward Gallery. Tickets from £19.

### Visual Arts | [Free Programme](#) | [Samuel Laurence Cunnane: Blue Road](#)

Tue 17 Feb – Sun 10 May, Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm,  
Closed on Mondays. HENI Project Space, Hayward Gallery. Free.

**Visual Arts** | **Free Programme** | [Quentin Blake: The Southbank Parade](#)

Tue 17 Feb – Sun 8 Nov, 10am – 11pm, Tue – Sun, Site wide. Free. For all ages.

**Visual Arts** | **Free Programme** | [Our Freedom: Then and Now](#)

Wed 18 Mar – Sat 25 Apr, 10am – 11pm, Tue – Sun, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

**Visual Arts** | [Skate 50](#)

Thu 30 Apr – Sun 21 Jun, Tue – Sun, 12pm, (Closed Mondays & 19 – 21 May), Undercroft, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Pay what you can / Free for skateboarders with their board. For all ages .

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## **EVENTS**

**Families & Young People** | [REPLAY: A Limitless Recycled Playground](#)

Wed 14 Jan – Sun 12 Apr, Various Times, Spirit Level, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £7.50 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 6 months – 11 years.

**Families & Young People** | [REPLAY: Relaxed](#)

Thu 15 Jan – Sun 12 Apr, Various Times, Spirit Level, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £7.50 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 6 months – 11 years.

**Spring Family Fun** | **Performance & Dance** | [The Koala Who Could](#)

Wed 1 Apr – Sun 5 Apr, Various Times, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £16 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 3+.

**Visual Arts** | [Hayward Gallery Lates: Chiharu Shiota & Yin Xiuzhen](#)

Wed 1 Apr, 6pm, Hayward Gallery. Tickets from £7.

**Classical Music** | [Pictures at an Exhibition](#)

Wed 1 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £16 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Literature & Spoken Word** | [Special Edition: East of the Sun, West of the Moon](#)

Wed 1 Apr, 8pm, National Poetry Library, Level 5, Blue Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £9 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+.

**Classical Music** | [Martha Argerich & Dong Hyek Lim](#)

Thu 2 Apr, 7pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Open Doors** | **Free Programme** | [Simmer Down: Good Friday Family Special](#)

Fri 3 Apr, 2pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

**Spring Family Fun** | **Families & Young People** | **Free Programme** | [Community Quilting: A Family Workshop](#)

Tue 7 Apr – Sat 11 Apr, 11am, Multiple venues. Free. For ages 7+.

**Spring Family Fun** | **Performance & Dance** | [The Boy at the Back of the Class](#)

Tue 7 Apr – Sun 12 Apr, Various Times, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £16 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Literature & Spoken Word** | [An Evening with Akala: State of the Nation](#)

Tue 7 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £32 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+.

**Tours** | **Newly Launched This Month** | [Southbank Centre Tours](#)

Wed 8 Apr – Fri 26 Jun, Various Times, Across the site (starts at Royal Festival Hall). Tickets from £20 + £3.50 booking fee. For all ages.

**Classical Music** | **Talks & Debates** | **Free Programme** | [Harmony with our Fragile Earth](#)

Wed 8 Apr, 6pm, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 7+.

**Classical Music** | [Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony](#)

Wed 8 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £16 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Classical Music** | [The Planets](#)

Thu 9 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £21.50 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Performance & Dance** | [Midgitte Bardot's Shooting from Below](#)

Thu 9 Apr – Sat 11 Apr, Purcell Room. Tickets from £12 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 16+.

**Classical Music** | [Brahms' Double](#)

Fri 10 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £16 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Classical Music** | [The National Youth Orchestra: Collide](#)

Sat 11 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £24 + £3.50 booking fee (Free for ages 19 and under). For ages 7+.

**Literature & Spoken Word** | **Courses & Workshops** | [Out-Spoken Masterclass: April](#)

Sun 12 Apr, 1pm, Sunley Pavilion, Level 3, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £27 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 18+.

**Classical Music** | **Talks & Debates** | **Free Programme** | [Philharmonia Debates... Music & Sexuality](#)

Sun 12 Apr, 1.15pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free (ticket required). For ages 11+.

**Classical Music** | [Bruce Liu Plays Ravel](#)

Sun 12 Apr, 3pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Classical Music** | [Carnival of the Animals](#)

Wed 15 Apr, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Literature & Spoken Word** | [Deborah Levy: My Year in Paris with Gertrude Stein](#)

Wed 15 Apr, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £15 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+.

**Classical Music** | [After Dark: 200 Years of ZSL](#)

Wed 15 Apr, 8.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer. Tickets from £10 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Visual Arts** | [Relaxed Hours: Chiharu Shiota & Yin Xiuzhen](#)

Tue 10 Mar, 2pm, Thu 16 Apr, 11am, Hayward Gallery. Tickets £19 / Members free. For all ages.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [The Rite by Heart](#)

Thu 16 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Classical Music** | **Talks & Debates** | **Free Programme** | [Harmony with our Changing Planet](#)

Fri 17 Apr, 6pm, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 7+.

**Classical Music** | [Terence Blanchard: A Requiem for Katrina](#)

Fri 17 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £16 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Visual Arts** | [British Sign Language Tours: Chiharu Shiota & Yin Xiuzhen](#)

Sat 18 Apr, 5pm, Hayward Gallery. Tickets from £8.

**Gigs** | [Evgeny Grinko](#)

Sat 18 Apr, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £37 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

**Classical Music** | [Nicola Benedetti Plays Elgar](#)

Sun 19 Apr, 3pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Classical Music** | [James McVinnie: Bach for Organ & Piano](#)

Sun 19 Apr, 7pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Visual Arts** | **Schools** | [Primary Schools Morning: Chiharu Shiota and Yin Xiuzhen](#)

Wed 22 Apr, 10am, Hayward Gallery. Free. For primary school groups only.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [Forged in Sound: Heavy Metal Orchestrated](#)

Wed 22 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [Echoes of Hill and Horizon](#)

Wed 22 Apr, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Visual Arts** | **Schools** | [Secondary Schools Morning: Chiharu Shiota and Yin Xiuzhen](#)

Thu 23 Apr, 10am, Hayward Gallery. Free. For secondary school, sixth form and college groups only.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [Turangalila: Infinite Love](#)

Thu 23 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 12+.

**Literature & Spoken Word** | **Families & Young People** | [Rug Rhymes: Summer](#)

Sat 24 Apr, 11am, National Poetry Library, Level 5, Blue Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £4 (admits one adult and one child). For ages 0 – 5.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [The Art of Fugue](#)

Fri 24 Apr – Sat 25 Apr, Fri: 7.45pm, Sat: 3pm & 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [Wozzeck: Wretches Like Us](#)

Sat 25 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [An Evening with an Immigrant](#)

Sun 26 Apr, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [Inferno](#)

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [Un-natural Harmony: The Sound of Alexander McQueen](#)

Wed 29 Apr & Thu 30 Apr, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

**Visual Arts** | [Members' Private View: Chiharu Shiota & Yin Xiuzhen](#)

Thu 30 Apr, 6pm, Hayward Gallery. Free (Members only). All Members are welcome to bring a guest to enjoy Members' Private View evenings.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [Sympoesia](#)

Thu 30 Apr, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+.

**Multitudes** | **Classical Music** | [Papillons](#)

Thu 30 Apr, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £32 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

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## **FOOD, DRINK & SHOPPING**

**Food, Drink & Shopping** | [Seventy5th Balcony Bar](#)

Tues – Sun: 10am – 10.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, Level 5, closed Mon.

**Food, Drink & Shopping** | [Southbank Centre Food Market](#)

Fri – Sun, 12pm, Southbank Centre Square.

**Food, Drink & Shopping** | [Roof Garden Bar & Kitchen](#)

Reopens 1 April 2026, Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden.

**Food, Drink & Shopping** | [Festival Bar & Kitchen](#)

Tue - Sun 10am – 10.30pm. Royal Festival Hall, Level 2, Closed Mon.

**Food, Drink & Shopping** | [Southbank Centre Shops](#)

Find gifts for lovers of art, music and big ideas. Shop in-store or online. Royal Festival Hall, Mandela Walk, Hayward Gallery. Tue – Sun: 11.30am – 7pm. Closed Mon.

**Food, Drink & Shopping** | [Hayward Gallery Shop for Yin Xiuzhen and Chiharu Shiota](#)

Tue 17 Feb, Hayward Gallery Shop and Online: Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm. Closed Mon.

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## **HAYWARD GALLERY TOURING EXHIBITIONS AROUND THE UK**

**Visual Arts** | [Paula Rego: Visions of English Literature](#)

Fri 30 Jan – Sun 10 May, The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum, Cheltenham. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

**Visual Arts** | [Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles](#)

Fri 30 Jan – Sun 3 May, Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

**Visual Arts** | [Eduardo Paolozzi: General Dynamic F.U.N](#)

Fri 13 Mar – Sun 7 Jun, Lincoln Museum and Usher Gallery, Lincoln. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

**Visual Arts** | [Georgia O'Keeffe: Memories of Drawings](#)

Sat 28 Mar – Sat 23 May, Beverley Art Gallery, Beverley. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

**Visual Arts** | [Joan Miró: Painting and Poetry](#)

Sat 18 Apr – Sun 14 Jun, Ushaw Historic House, Durham. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

**#ENDS#**