

EMBARGOED FOR TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2025, 10AM GMT

**SOUTHBANK
CENTRE**



PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED FOR SECOND *SOUTHBANK CENTRE x MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL RESIDENCY*

EXPLORING ‘WHAT IS JAZZ TODAY?’ AND CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF MILES DAVIS



L-R: Theo Croker © Bruno Barreto; Celeste © Siam Coy; Children of Zeus © Benji Reid

- **Three days of live performances celebrating Miles Davis’ legacy and exploring the influence, impact, and sound of jazz today**
- **Line-up featuring Grammy-nominated Theo Croker, Children of Zeus, and Mercury Music Prize-nominated corto.alto**
- **Free events include a tribute to the late D’Angelo plus writing workshops, improvisational open jam sessions, and more**

London, Tuesday 18 November: Following its acclaimed debut in 2025, the **Southbank Centre** and **Montreux Jazz Festival** announce the return of the ***Southbank Centre x Montreux Jazz Festival Residency***, taking place **Friday 13 – Sunday 15 March 2026** across the Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room.

Entering its second year, the three-day residency investigates the question ‘*What is Jazz Today?*’, this time through the lens of **Miles Davis** – marking the centenary of his birth. As one of the genre’s greatest innovators, whose numerous performances on the Southbank Centre’s stages spanned two decades of the arts centre’s almost 75-year history, Davis’ restless reinvention provides a touchstone for this year’s programme, which brings together a diverse blend of artists who are reshaping the sound of jazz today.

At its core, the residency provides a platform for artists to honour jazz’s multi-faceted legacy, while pushing its sonic boundaries into new and unexpected places – from Grammy-nominated **Theo Croker**’s cosmic soundscapes to **Children of Zeus**’ soulful hip-hop inflections and **corto.alto**’s genre-fluid improvisation. Each artist embodies the visionary risk-taking and exploratory approach that has defined jazz for over a century.

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, said: “*The return of the Southbank Centre x Montreux Jazz Festival Residency showcases jazz at its most boundary-pushing and curious and as an ever evolving form, bringing together artists who are expanding our understanding of jazz. The residency marks the centenary of the legendary Miles Davis, whose pioneering artistry serves as a touchstone for its programme, inspiring both performances and discussions of jazz as a living artistic force. Across the three days, we will welcome to the*

stage a diversity of perspectives and voices, each shaping the conversation around jazz's future and its forward-looking, collaborative spirit."

Mathieu Jaton, CEO of Montreux Jazz Festival, said: *"We're proud to continue our partnership with the Southbank Centre and bring the spirit of Montreux to London once again. The question 'What is Jazz Today?' lies at the heart of both Montreux Jazz Festival and this residency — a celebration of artists who, like Miles Davis, challenge conventions, boundaries and keep the music alive as a constantly evolving art form. Together, we aim to inspire new generations of musicians and audiences by honouring jazz's past while amplifying its vibrant, unpredictable future."*

RESIDENCY LINE-UP

This year's festival line-up charts jazz as a living, evolving musical language and tradition. **Theo Croker** (13 Mar) kicks off the three-day residency with a personal tribute to Miles Davis, selecting the works that have most impacted his own sound and presenting them, alongside musical guests, in unexpected ways. **Children of Zeus** (14 Mar) join forces with members of **Tomorrow's Warriors**, the Southbank Centre's Resident Organisation and pioneering talent-development charity, for two headlining gigs and to create a festival band lineup for the summer. The collaboration bridges generations, uniting two of Manchester's most respected soul and hip-hop artists with rising jazz musicians, reflecting jazz's continued tradition of creative exchange. Mercury Music Prize-nominated **corto.alto** (15 Mar) brings a blistering live set of improvisation, broken-beat bounce and bass-heavy dub, embodying the new expansive and future-facing directions British jazz is taking.

WIDER PUBLIC PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

A key strand of the programming within the residency reimagines how audiences experience, reflect and engage with jazz and its far-reaching roots. As part of the offering of free and ticketed events, there will be a powerful panel discussion in tribute to the late four-time Grammy award-winning artist **D'Angelo** (15 Mar). As one of the major founders of the 90s neo-soul movement, this free event will dive into **D'Angelo's** most influential albums and seminal tracks that defined his work and profoundly shaped the music and experimentation made by artists today.

The Brit award-winning soul artist **Celeste** joins writer and music journalist and broadcaster **Emma Warren** for an in-conversation event (14 Mar) to discuss the influence of jazz on **Celeste's** enriching, ever-evolving sound.

The Five Points Project (13 Mar) hosts a free open jam built around live improvisation, collective musicianship and spontaneous collaboration. Musicians and audiences share the space, shaping the sound in real time — a space for experimentation at the heart of the Southbank Centre x Montreux Jazz Festival Residency.

A special edition of **Hidden Tracks** (14 Mar), from the series of storytelling events by **OneTrackMinds**, sees performers share a personal story about a life-changing song, before the song is then played for the audience. For the residency, each story and song will take its own journey to explore what jazz is today. A free, practical **Hidden Tracks: Write Your Story** (15 Mar) then invites participants to explore the connections between music and narrative, shaping personal stories through music.

ARTIST SHOWCASES

Championing female artists at the forefront of the UK scene, **Women in Jazz** returns with a showcase (13 Mar) of exceptional live performances and stories from its thriving community of 10,500 musicians, producers and

composers. Known for its celebrated programming at Love Supreme Festival and Ronnie Scott's, the organisation continues to shape the sound of jazz's future through mentorship, collaboration and visibility.

The **Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation** (MJAF) continues its mission to champion emerging talent through a Swiss Artist Showcase, highlighting new voices in European jazz. Reflecting the Foundation's commitment to fostering young musicians and cross-cultural exchange, the showcase features Swiss-Palestinian drummer and composer **Ramzi Hammad** (15 Mar) leading a genre-blending ensemble that unites Arabic traditions, hip-hop, contemporary jazz, and London improvisation.

Tickets for **Southbank Centre x Montreux Jazz Festival Residency** go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on **Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 10am** and general sale on **Thursday 20 November 2025 at 10am**.

- ENDS -

Images available [here](#)

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

FRIDAY 13 MARCH

[Theo Croker - Miles Davis Mixtape](#)

Friday 13 March 2026, 7pm – 10pm, Royal Festival Hall; ticketed

Grammy-nominated trumpeter, composer and producer Theo Croker marks the 100th anniversary of Miles Davis with a personal mixtape, selecting the pieces that have shaped his own musical language, presented in new, unexpected ways. Joined by special guests, Croker reflects on the influence and ongoing legacy of Davis' visionary sound.

[The Five Points Jam](#)

Friday 13 March 2026, 7pm – 10:30pm, Royal Festival Hall's Clore Ballroom; free

Five Points Project hosts an open late session built around live improvisation, collective musicianship and spontaneous collaboration. Musicians and audiences share the space, shaping the night's sound together in real time — a space for experimentation and new creative exchange at the heart of the Southbank Centre x Montreux Jazz Festival Residency's spirit.

[Women in Jazz](#)

Friday 13 March 2026, 7:30pm – 10pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall's Purcell Room; ticketed

Championing female artists at the forefront of the UK scene, Women in Jazz returns with a showcase of exceptional live performances and stories from its thriving community of 10,500 musicians, producers and composers. Known for its celebrated programming at Love Supreme Festival and Ronnie Scott's, the organisation continues to shape the sound of jazz's future through mentorship, collaboration and visibility.

SATURDAY 14 MARCH

[Women in Jazz: In Conversation with Celeste](#)

Saturday 14 March 2026, 2pm – 3:30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall's Purcell Room; ticketed

Music journalist Emma Warren sits down with Celeste for an intimate conversation about voice, creative process and the musical lineages that shape her sound. Together they explore the ways jazz continues to inform contemporary songwriting, and the role of women shaping the future of the genre.

[Children Of Zeus](#)

Saturday 14 March 2026, 6pm – 7:30pm and 9pm – 10:30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall; ticketed

Manchester duo Children of Zeus (Konny Kon and Tyler Daley) bring their lush fusion of soul and hip-hop to the Southbank Centre for two performances. For this special collaboration, they're joined by members of Tomorrow's Warriors, the Southbank Centre's Resident Organisation dedicated to developing diverse young jazz talent. Together, they form a unique festival band that bridges generations – celebrating the jazz DNA running through today's neo-soul, R&B and hip-hop.

[Hidden Tracks](#)

Saturday 14 March 2026, 7:45pm – 10pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall's Purcell Room; ticketed

A series of storytelling events from OneTrackMinds, *Hidden Tracks* invites performers to share a personal story about a life-changing song, before the song is then played for the audience. As part of this special edition of *Hidden Tracks* for the residency, each story and song will take its own journey to explore what jazz is today.

SUNDAY 15 MARCH

[Hidden Tracks: Write Your Story](#)

Sunday 15 March 2026, 12 – 2pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer; free

A practical writing workshop inviting participants to explore the connections between music and narrative, shaping personal stories through music. Using the Hidden Tracks format as a starting point, participants explore how memories, sound and emotion intersect and leave with the tools to begin writing their own music-led narratives.

[Track Record: On D'Angelo](#)

Sunday 15 March 2026, 4 – 5:30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer; free

Guest artists gather to discuss the profound impact of the late D'Angelo – the boundary-breaking artist whose fusion of soul, funk and jazz redefined modern music. This panel event will dive into D'Angelo's most influential albums and seminal tracks that defined his work and profoundly shaped the music and experimentation made by artists today.

[corto.alto](#)

Sunday 15 March 2026, 7:30 – 10pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall; ticketed

In the residency's closing night, Mercury Music Prize-nominated corto.alto (the brainchild of Glasgow trombonist and producer Liam Shortall) brings a blistering live set of improvisation, broken-beat bounce and bass-heavy dub.

Described as "a traditional jazz head raised in the internet age", corto.alto's fluid sound speaks to jazz's ongoing dialogue with club culture, electronica and hip-hop – a perfect culmination for a weekend devoted to exploring the genre's living evolution.

[Ramzi Hammad & Collective: Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation Concert](#)

Sunday 15 March 2026, 7:45 – 9:30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall's Purcell Room; ticketed

Closing the residency, Swiss-Palestinian drummer and composer Ramzi Hammad leads a genre-crossing ensemble that draws together Arabic musical traditions, hip-hop, contemporary jazz and London improvisation. Presented by the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation, the performance spotlights emerging artists shaping the future sound of jazz on the global stage.

ABOUT MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Montreux Jazz Festival takes place for two weeks every summer in Switzerland, on the shores of Lake Geneva. Created in 1967 by Claude Nobs and directed by Mathieu Jaton since 2013, the Montreux Jazz Festival has become over the years an essential event, generating fantastic stories and legendary performances. Nearly 250,000 spectators come to the Festival every year, enjoying a breathtaking setting, concerts with renowned acoustics and many free stages. Montreux Jazz Festival celebrates the industry's emerging and contemporary acts, whilst paying homage to music's legendary acts. Originally a pure jazz festival since inception in 1967,

Montreux began showcasing other styles of music throughout the decades and today presents artists from across every genre imaginable. Artists that have graced the stage of Montreux include Etta James, Quincy Jones, Bob Dylan, Elton John, Ms. Lauren Hill, Aretha Franklin, David Bowie, James Brown, Kendrick Lamar, Leonard Cohen, Marvin Gaye, Miles Davis, Nina Simone and many more.

www.montreuxjazzfestival.com

ABOUT MONTREUX JAZZ ARTISTS FOUNDATION

The Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation (MJAF) is a recognized non-profit foundation that supports the next generation of artists and encourages exchanges through the universal language of music. Founded in 2007, the MJAF pursues two core objectives: discovering and nurturing talented musicians in the early stages of their careers and making music accessible to all. Year-round, the MJAF generates powerful discoveries and encounters through its artistic residencies, its cultural activities, and its talent-development programs across the globe. For the past five years, the MJAF has organized the MJF Residency in Montreux, an autumn festival that brings together artists from around the world, offering them essential tools to advance their careers. Through workshops, mentorship, and performance opportunities, the MJF Residency continues to provide a unique platform for artists to learn, grow, and connect.

www.montreuxjazzartistsfoundation.com

ABOUT 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), two resident organisations (Kinetika Bloco and Tomorrow's Warriors) and six resident orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).

www.southbankcentre.co.uk