

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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

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Southbank Centre announces first names for South Asian Sounds 2025



Jaz Dhami © Eddy Omr; Roopa Panesar © Mark Allan; Osman Mir © Om Dave

The **Southbank Centre** today announces the first names for **South Asian Sounds 2025**. Following the success of its inaugural edition in 2024, South Asian Sounds returns as a celebration of the rich, varied musical traditions of the wider Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi diaspora as well as ambitious UK-based artists and collectives working at the intersection of cultures and genres.

Running from Thursday 15 - Sunday 18 May across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, the series is presented in partnership with Asian Arts Agency, Baluji Music Foundation, Ragatip and Readipop. South Asian Sounds is part of the Southbank Centre's ongoing mission to reflect and support the breadth of creative communities represented in London and across the UK.

Tickets for South Asian Sounds 2025 go on sale to members on Tuesday 21 January at 10am and to the general public on Wednesday 22 January at 10am via:

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/events/south-asian-sounds/>

Commenting on **South Asian Sounds 2025**, **Southbank Centre Artistic Director Mark Ball** said, *"The Southbank Centre has been the home for rich and diverse musical cultures from across South Asia for decades and South Asian Sounds continues to build on that legacy. It's a privilege and a priority to continue to showcase the very best of this work, including new music and emerging voices that connect to younger generations of music lovers."*

On Thursday 15 May, the leading ensemble **Re-Orient** with the multi-instrumentalist **Baluji Shrivastav** OBE, delivers a sensational blend of Latin, Indian and Jazz music at the Purcell Room. Showcasing the maestro's artistry in the sitar, dilruba and gopi, Baluji will perform alongside Linda Shanovitch, Alex Hill, Sukhdeep Dhanjal and Rishi Gulati. Audiences can expect a rich tapestry of percussive footwork, intricate melodies and sinuous movements from Indian dance.

On Friday 16 May, acclaimed composer **Sumeet Chopra** takes to the stage at Queen Elizabeth Hall to celebrate the rich journey of Punjabi music. Expect a captivating mix of timeless classics and contemporary fusion, blending traditional instrumentation with electronic sounds. UK Bhangra star, **Jaz Dhani** will join Sumeet and his live band, showcasing his extraordinary vocal talent and performing a selection of his own chart-topping hits. The evening is presented by Readipop.

On Saturday 17 May, the award-winning sitar player **Roopa Panesar** brings her '*staggering dexterity*' (The Guardian) to the Queen Elizabeth Hall for a live performance of her 2023 album *ATMA (The Soul)*, presented by Asian Arts Agency. Known as one of the finest sitar players to emerge on the Indian classical music scene from the UK, Roopa performs with her 8-piece group, uniting western and traditional Indian instruments from the Double Bass to the double-headed barrel drum, mridangam.

Meanwhile, in the Royal Festival Hall, the globally renowned 'Pride of Gujarat' and Bollywood star, **Osman Mir** performs with the Third Culture Collective and his son, Aamir Mir. Presented by Ragatip, this landmark performance celebrates Gujarat's folk traditions. Featuring Osman Mir's soulful vocals alongside new orchestral arrangements by Kavi Pau (conductor), the evening brings to light Gujarati musical legacy reimagined with a western classical orchestra.

Closing the festival on Sunday 18 May, **Rizwan Muazzam Qawwali Group** delivers an enriching programme of devotional Sufi music, a tradition that spans five centuries.

Garnering worldwide attention for their vibrant, live shows, their highly anticipated return to the UK will bring together their unique fusion of soaring voices and an ensemble of harmonium, tabla & handclaps. Rizwan and Muazzam continue to pay homage to their rich musical heritage and to their uncle, the qawwali singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, pioneering efforts to transcend cultural, language and religious barriers. This event is presented by Asian Arts Agency.

Further programming will be announced in Spring 2025.

- ENDS -

Event Listings

BALUJI SHRIVASTAV & RE-ORIENT

Thursday 15 May, Purcell Room at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

BAM! JAZ DHAMI X SUMEET CHOPRA

Friday 16 May, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

ROOPA PANESAR'S ATMA (THE SOUL)

Saturday 17 May, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

OSMAN MIR & THIRD COLLECTIVE COLLECTIVE

Saturday 17 May, Royal Festival Hall, 7.00pm

RIZWAN MUAZZAM QAWWALI GROUP

Sunday 18 May, Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

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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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