

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

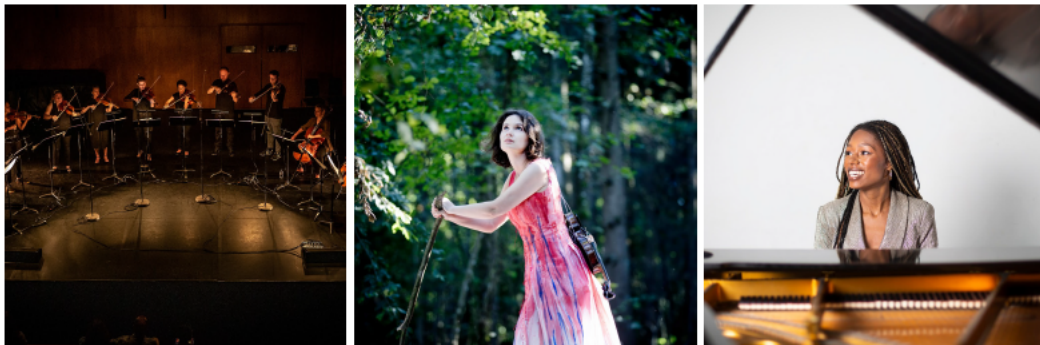
Date: Tuesday 29 June 2021, 10am

Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Press images: [HERE](#)

This press release is available in a range of formats. Please email press@southbankcentre.co.uk

From Manchester Collective to Mitsuko Uchida: The Southbank Centre announces part one of its classical music programme for 2021/22



Photos: Manchester Collective (© Vic Frankowski); Patricia Kopatchinskaja (© Julia Wesely-Lichter); Isata Kanneh-Mason (© Robin Clewley)

The Southbank Centre today raises the curtain on its **2021/22 classical music programme**, announcing the first events in its calendar for Autumn/Winter (September 2021 – January 2022).

After nearly two curtailed seasons, the UK's largest multi-arts centre, home to **three outstanding performance spaces** and **creative, outdoor civic spaces**, will proudly welcome back audiences to **over 200 concerts** over **nine months**.

Alongside our family of **eight world-class orchestras**, **2021/22 includes** boundary-pushing **associate artists Colin Currie Group, Patricia Kopatchinskaja and Víkingur Ólafsson**, **international orchestral visitors** and two **new UK-based artistic partners Manchester Collective and The Multi-Story Orchestra**. This ambitious programme will both celebrate everything that the Southbank Centre has always stood for and signal a new future for the genre as the sector responds to a changed world post-pandemic.

The programme begins with an unmissable opening week broadcast across BBC Radio 3 starting with Tippett's rarely-performed *The Midsummer Marriage* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Edward Gardner, and concludes with a semi-staged presentation of Wagner's *Parsifal* with Opera North next June, the culmination of the touring opera's major UK production.

New for next year will be a selection of **late night events** in the Purcell Room and two key strands for **families and contemporary audiences** with programming that breaks ground and plays with formats. The programme will also see the return of the Southbank Centre's popular series for **piano, chamber music and international touring projects**, as well as diverse new music festivals including **Soundstate** and **New Music Biennial** and composer-themed celebrations centred on **Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Vivier and Strauss** in Part 2 from February – July. The **EFG London Jazz Festival** also returns with the **BBC Concert Orchestra** and trailblazing trumpeter Yazz Ahmed and much more across the Southbank Centre this Autumn.

As it continues to emerge from closure, the Southbank Centre will demonstrate that **the future of classical music is in collaboration**. The venue and all of its orchestras have joined together for the first time to present a **unified 'multi-buy' offer** for the majority of its concerts, allowing audiences to curate their own journey through the rich and varied programme. Later this year, it will unveil cross-organisational **audience development and programming initiatives** alongside Part 2 of the programme from February – June 2022.

As part of this commitment, the Southbank Centre has joined forces with six major international venues from New York to Tokyo for a major co-commission for **Steve Reich, *Traveler's Prayer***, a seismic new project in which the rhythms of Hebrew psalm texts bring a new fluidity to his musical patterns. This builds on the venue's legacy for collaboration across borders for landmark cultural moments.

Meanwhile, a focus on **humanity's relationship with nature**, exploring moral responsibility and psychological experience, draws a continuous thread: there's the Philharmonia Orchestra's *Human/Nature* series, a screening and orchestral treatment of *Koyaanisqatsi: Life Out of Balance* with Philip Glass Ensemble and the Philharmonia (a co-promotion with the Southbank Centre), Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's 'The Wilderness Pleases' and Chineke!'s *Song of the Prophets*.

Edward Gardner and **Santtu-Matias Rouvali** have their first appearances in their respective roles as Principal Conductors of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Philharmonia Orchestra in September. **Karina Canellakis** debuts in her new titled position as Principal Guest Conductor of the LPO and the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** comes with five special projects under their new Music Director **Vasily Petrenko**.

Additional new music highlights in Part 1 include: 5 world, 3 UK and 1 London premiere, from the likes of Steve Reich, Ayanna Witter-Johnson, Bryce Dessner and Isobel Waller-Bridge. **18 women composers** will be reflected in 'Part 1', including New Yorker Jessie Montgomery who appeared in the Southbank Centre's highly-successful online 'Inside Out' series.

The Southbank Centre continues to cultivate its **digital audiences** who have been so supportive of the classical music programme throughout closure – further details will be announced in due course. Meanwhile, the orchestras continue to broadcast content: the Philharmonia Orchestra will stream the first and last events in their 'Human / Nature' season; the LPO continues its partnership with Marquee TV, streaming at least 10 RFH concerts with delayed broadcast and initial free access for all; the OAE will present content and hybrid event experiences on OAE Player; and the London Sinfonietta and Chineke! will stream all events on YouTube.

Gillian Moore CBE, Director of Music and Performing Arts, Southbank Centre, said:

"For so long we have missed that alchemical spark which happens when performers and audiences come together in a concert hall, so it is wonderful finally to be able to announce an autumn classical music programme at Southbank Centre. Central to our programme will be the work of our family of orchestras, whose creativity has been extraordinary over the past eighteen months. We are working with them and with an array of like-minded artists to make sure that we bring what we've learned from these times and create programmes which welcome and excite the widest possible audience. Musicians and audiences may have missed each other, but classical music at Southbank is emerging in better shape than it has ever been, with major collaborations, game-changing artists and new thinking."

Toks Dada, Head of Classical Music, Southbank Centre, said:

"As we emerge into a changed world, it is vital that we begin to re-imagine a new future for classical music, with a focus on engaging the widest possible audience, supporting a broad range of artists, and pushing forward the artform. At Southbank Centre we're starting by forging new artistic relationships with forward-thinking home-grown artists and ensembles, commissioning new work from unheard and established voices, and creating new experiences and formats that welcome back families and contemporary audiences familiar with the centre, as well as reach audiences new to the centre."

The past year has emphasised that we are stronger when we work together. In collaboration with our entire family of orchestras, we're thinking differently about how we present classical music and, for the first time, putting the power in the hands of the audience with our new joined up 'multi-buy' offer across the entire programme. This will allow the audience to curate their own journey through the diverse programme, irrespective of the orchestra, strand or series. Later in the year, we will unveil more plans that further enhance and amplify the work of our family of orchestras. We look forward to announcing the next part of our programme. This is just the beginning."

For Southbank Centre Members and Supporters Circles, booking opens at 10am on Tuesday 6 July. General booking opens from 10am on Thursday 8 July.

Opening week festival: Broadcast by BBC Radio 3

- Classical music returns with a week of firsts broadcast exclusively by **BBC Radio 3** which takes up residence to launch the Southbank Centre's programme. In what is being billed as a microcosm of the wider programme, the Southbank Centre will use this opening festival to give an insight into what audiences can expect for the year

ahead. From Resident Orchestras with their new Principal Conductors to the launch of new artist residencies, this will be an unmissable weekend of live events and live radio. Also that week new artistic partners, The Multi-Story Orchestra launch this year's series for families.

New artistic partners: breaking boundaries and playing with formats

- **Manchester Collective** is a new kind of arts organisation for a diverse musical world; the Southbank Centre welcomes them for a unique residency, with four genre-bending projects in the Purcell Room (2 Oct & 3 Dec) and QEH (24 Apr & 14 May). They'll showcase boundary-defying artists with fresh perspectives, as modern masterpieces by the likes of Julius Eastman sit alongside cross-genre collaborations and commissions for artists including Hannah Peel, Lyra Pramuk, Vessel and Abel Selaocoe.
- From a carpark in Peckham to the concert hall on the South Bank, **The Multi-Story Orchestra** makes its Southbank Centre debut to begin the venue's new family strand in its ambitious opening weekend, presenting a musical adventure right across the site (3 Oct).
- German-Japanese pianist **Alice Sara Ott** is no stranger to the Southbank Centre but this year she comes with something quite different: Chopin's Preludes with seven contemporary works and an architect-designed video installation, surrounding the back of the stage and taking the audience on a stunning visual and musical journey (7 Nov).

New programming strands: 'The Contemporary Edit' & experiences for families

- The Southbank Centre introduces 'The Contemporary Edit' a new strand for a new year for cutting-edge contemporary classical music, starting with **Manchester Collective** and including: the **Philharmonia Orchestra's** 'Music of Today' series curated by Pekka Kuusisto, an experimental jazz programme for **London Sinfonietta** and the **BBC Concert Orchestra's** on-stage presentation of Elizabeth Alker's BBC Radio 3 programme, 'Unclassified'.
- New formats for new audiences continue with the launch of a monthly family experience. Beginning with **The Multi-Story Orchestra** in the opening weekend, it's followed by **LPO FunHarmonics** in November and **OAE TOTS** in January.

Associate Artists: new work, new ideas and new collaborations

- Gramophone Artist of the Year, pianist **Víkingur Ólafsson** begins his Associate Artist residency with a recital pivoting on Mozartian masterpieces and rarities from his contemporaries including Cimarosa and Galuppi, as well as Víkingur's own haunting transcriptions (2 Oct).
- **Colin Currie Group** performs the UK premiere of Steve Reich's *Traveler's Prayer* (19 Oct), as part of a landmark collaboration between seven major international venues – NTR ZaterdagMatinee (NPO Radio4's concert series in the Amsterdam Concertgebouw), the Southbank Centre, Carnegie Hall, Philharmonie de Paris, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Cal Performances and Tokyo Opera City Cultural Foundation.
- Grammy Award-winning violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** appears multiple times, first teaming up with cellist **Sol Gabetta** for a journey from Baroque to the present day (26 Oct).

International Series

- In the same month as the Southbank's three Associate Artists kick off the piano and chamber music series, **Stephen Hough** brings a programme of Chopin & Schumann to the RFH, one of his favourite venues (27 Oct). **Alice Sara Ott's** immersive multimedia celebration of the piano will transcend the traditional recital setting (7 Nov) and young virtuosos **Isata Kanneh-Mason** (2 Dec) and **Alexandre Kantorow** (29 Jan) take to the stage, with Isata making her Southbank Centre debut.
 - The **St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra** returns for the first time since 2017 with **Yuri Temirkanov** for Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 (20 Oct) and, specially-announced today, long term Southbank Centre collaborator **Mitsuko Uchida** appears with **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** later this year – two additional international orchestral projects will be announced later.
-

The Southbank Centre's Orchestras

- The **London Philharmonic Orchestra** welcomes Edward Gardner for his first official season as Principal Conductor, starting the season with a concert performance of Tippett's rarely-performed *The Midsummer Marriage* with a star cast including Ashley Riches, Sophie Bevan, and Toby Spence (25 Sep) and continuing with Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* paired with Lutoslawski's *Cello Concerto*, performed by Nicolas Altstaedt (1 Oct) and Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* (6 Nov). Also newly-appointed, Karina Canellakis conducts four concerts, including Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 & 5 (10 & 27 Nov) and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 with Stephen Hough (1 Dec). The LPO celebrates new music this autumn with the long-awaited UK premiere of James MacMillan's *Christmas Oratorio*, conducted by Sir Mark Elder (4 Dec). Vladimir Jurowski returns in his new role of Conductor Emeritus for Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1 with Leonidas Kavakos, Rachmaninoff's Symphony No.3 and a new version of Brett Dean's haunting *Notturmo inquieto* (8 Dec). Brett Dean continues his relationship with the orchestra as Composer-in-Residence and Julia Fischer is this year's Artist-in-Residence. As ever, the LPO welcomes a stellar lineup of guest conductors, including Kazushi Ono, Marin Alsop and Klaus Mäkelä in his much-anticipated London debut. Soloists include Lucy Crowe, Jan Lisiecki, Cédric Tiberghien, Andreas Ottensamer, Roderick Williams and Christian Tetzlaff. Today, the LPO also announced the second part of their programme.
- Santtu-Matias Rouvali becomes the **Philharmonia Orchestra's** sixth Principal Conductor, headlining their *Human / Nature* series with a thrilling Strauss double bill (30 Sep). *Human / Nature* runs from 30 September – 2 December, exploring how composers have addressed humanity's place within the natural world, and how today's musicians can confront the climate emergency. Other key projects in this vital series for our time include Pierre-Laurent Aimard with a birdsong-inspired programme (28 Oct) and Hilary Hahn playing Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending* (7 Nov). Elsewhere, 'Featured Artist' Pekka Kuusisto comes in three guises as performer, with a specially-commissioned *Violin Concerto* by Bryce

Dessner (3 Oct) and Sibelius' *Violin Concerto* (2 Dec), as director, with a special performance of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* (28 Nov) and as programmer, curating two 'Music of Today' programmes (3 Oct & 28 Nov). The orchestra comes together with the Philip Glass Ensemble for a rare and anticipated screening of *Koyaanisqatsi: Life Out of Balance* (21 Oct). Elsewhere, András Schiff returns for a feast of Mozart (18 Nov).

- **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** presents the first concerts in their 'The Wilderness Pleases' season, inspired by Shaftesbury's controversial philosophical work, *The Moralists*. The programme opens with Beethoven's idyllic Symphony No. 6, 'Pastoral' (8 Nov) and moves on to explore the dark and sensual work of Handel's *Aci, Galatea e Polifemo* (23 Jan).
- The **London Sinfonietta** continues to explore new musical worlds with a series of new commissions bringing jazz together with contemporary classical with some of the leading names in the scene, including Cassie Kinoshi, Elliot Galvin, Laura Jurd and Shabaka Hutchings and (17 Nov), as well as a concert exploring the music of Catalan composer Roberto Gerhard (1 Dec).
- The **BBC Concert Orchestra** presents the first of two concerts bringing Elizabeth Alker's radio show to the stage: 'Unclassified Live: Transforming Sound' features pioneering electronic artists Daniel Avery, Afrodeutsche and Aisha Devi; the orchestra then joins with trailblazing British-Bahraini performer and composer Yazz Ahmed, part of the EFG London Jazz Festival (21 Nov); and finally, they perform two works by composer Dobrinka Tabakova as she reaches the end of her role with the orchestra (3 Dec).
- **Chineke! Orchestra** performs *Song of the Prophets*, a call to action to fight climate change (16 Oct), and the London premiere of a new work entitled *Blush* by composer Ayanna Witter-Johnson (25 Nov).
- **Aurora Orchestra** joins with Nicola Benedetti for Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* (4 Nov).
- Details about the **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain's** forthcoming appearances will be announced in mid-October with Part 2 of the classical music programme.
- The **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** appears regularly at the Southbank Centre next year, presenting five special projects under their New Music Director Vasily Petrenko – the first features violinist Ning Feng (3 Nov). The additional concerts will be announced with Part 2.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

For further press information please contact:

Anna Hughes | PR Manager, Music
anna.hughes@southbankcentre.co.uk | 07837 258652

Join the Conversation:

@southbankcentre

About the 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).

Southbank Centre Re-opening

Hayward Gallery: 19 May 2021

Royal Festival Hall: 28 May 2021

National Poetry Library: 28 May 2021

Queen Elizabeth Hall: August 2021

Purcell Room: September 2021

Opening times for venues can be found on the [Southbank Centre website](#).

Keeping audiences safe on site

As we welcome visitors back, our number one priority is the safety, health and wellbeing of visitors and staff, so we have introduced a number of measures to help everyone feel confident. These include QR codes at entrances which link to NHS Test and Trace, reduced visitor numbers, social distancing, wearing face coverings, physically distanced seating, fresh air circulation measures and regular and thorough cleaning. We will continue to review and manage any risks and respond to any changes in government guidance. Full details of our Covid-secure measures can be found on the Southbank Centre website.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

