



## Press Release

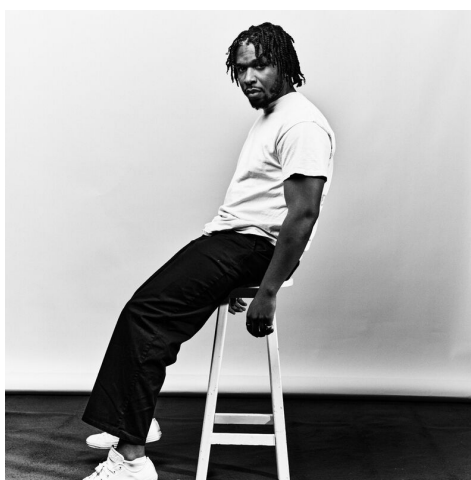
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Images: Available to download [here](#)

Listings: [here](#)

## Southbank Centre's pioneering performance series *Purcell Sessions* announces diverse multi-art Autumn programme



L-R Lucinda Chua © Yukitaka Amemiya; Yomi Sode © Akytom

### Purcell Sessions' Autumn line-up includes:

- Music from **John Glacier**, **Lucinda Chua**, **Kali Malone**, **First Terrace Records** and **Chesaba**
- The latest collaborative performances from the **London Contemporary Orchestra** with **KMRU**, **Sote**, **Charles Hayward** and **TEEBs**
- **Âme**, **Lawrence Power** and filmmaker **Jessie Rodger** present 'Fathom' — an multi-artform environmental piece specially designed for the Purcell Room
- A major new Southbank Centre commission, **Yomi Sode** will present an immersive stage adaptation of his debut poetry collection 'Manorism', which explores the complexities of belonging in an examination of the lives of Black British men and boys
- A new performance piece 'Joint' by **Jay Bernard**, about joint enterprise, a contested law that is often used in racist and classist ways

The Southbank Centre announces a major new autumn programme for its innovative contemporary culture series *Purcell Sessions*, which champions artistic expression across music, performance, visual art, literature and spoken word, and features an exciting mix of creatively adventurous and diverse artists.

**Mark Ball, Artistic Director at the Southbank Centre, says:** *“The Purcell Rooms is building its reputation as the home for innovative cross art-form collaboration and new works that push boundaries. This autumn we have a fantastic line-up of Purcell Sessions where audiences can experience truly unhindered creative expression. With the return of the London Contemporary Orchestra and performances from cellist Abel Selaocoe as well artists Kali Malone and Sote, we continue to underscore our support of international and local artists by providing a space for them to take risks, challenge artistic norms and build connections across artforms.”*

For this new season of *Purcell Sessions*, the **London Contemporary Orchestra** and the Southbank Centre have curated a bold line-up celebrating musicians and voices from diverse backgrounds. The programme of events kick-starts with **TEEBB**, the American record producer and musician, who will bring his soulful hip-hop beats to the Purcell Room on Friday 16 September. On Sunday 16 October, This Heat's **Charles Hayward** will deliver his moody, high energy rhythms that denote the era of retro punk with elements of psychedelia and metallic noise. On Sunday 6 November, **Sote**, one of Iran's most established musicians, will be showcasing his haunting fusion of electronics with classical Iranian melodies resulting in kaleidoscopic compositions. Finally, on Friday 25 November, Kenyan musician **KMRU** will deliver a series of powerful and ambient soundscapes in a staggering collaboration with the LCO that celebrates true experimentation.

In a brand new commission with the Southbank Centre, **Yomi Şode** will present his debut poetry collection 'Manorism' adapted for the stage as part of *Purcell Sessions* this autumn. 'Manorism' explores family, survival, generational trauma and the complexities of belonging, in an examination of the lives of Black British men and boys. Written by Yomi Şode, this performance is directed by **Philip J Morris**, produced by **Natalie Fiawoo**, music composed by **Melo-Zed** with dramatic composition by **Myah Jeffers**, movement by **Kenrick Sandy** and visuals by **Darryl Daley**.

**Jay Bernard** creates a new performance as part of *Purcell Sessions*. 'Joint' explores the contested law of joint enterprise – often used in racist and classist ways – which criminalises people based on their foresight of a crime, not whether they committed it. 'Joint' was brought to life in a short film launched at the National Poetry Library in 2021. This new performance expands on its themes and story.

A true breakout star of 2021 with her potent debut *SHILOH: Lost for Words*, **John Glacier** will perform at the Southbank Centre's Purcell Room on Saturday 3 September. Also part of the Southbank Centre's *Summer: In The Black Fantastic* programme, which explores art inspired by afrofuturism, myth-making and science fiction, her esoteric bars, enigmatic demeanour and expertly produced tracks will be a highlight of this season's *Purcell Sessions*.

London-based singer, composer and cellist **Lucinda Chua** uses her voice to create ephemeral and hypnotic pop songs, creating a truly intimate and enchanting performance, creating and collaborating from the Purcell Room over three days. Chua will be offering discounts for her performances to the wider Asian community in London, so everyone can experience her works which are deeply rooted in her Chinese heritage. On Friday 2 December for two nights, American drone organist **Kali Malone** composes an immersive piece '*Does Spring Hide Its Joy*', featuring musicians **Lucy Railton** and **Stephen O'Malley**. Producing rich harmonic textures, the music explores minimalist and repetitive rhythms creating a mesmerising sound.

Known for unearthing hidden talent, the independent and experimental record label, **First Terrace Records** is showcasing a breadth of inspirational musicians on the label's fifth birthday including **Peter Broderick**, who will bring a new interpretation to **The Beacon Sound Choir's** repertoire with the help of the choral group **Musarc**. The evening will see the premiere of a contemporary dance piece from **Bianca Scout's** upcoming multimedia project *The Mortal Instrument of Bones*, produced with the **Daughter Mary Ensemble**. Poetry, projection, and sound design overlap and loop to create an electric backdrop to Scout's dance performance. Finally, **Specimens** presents *Power, Pain and Privilege*, a specially commissioned audio-visual work made in collaboration with film-maker and photographer **Lucie Rox**, exploring both artists' experiences as people of mixed ethnic background living in the UK.

**Chesaba**, Abel Selaocoe's electrifying trio featuring Alan Keary and Sidiki Dembélé will deliver an inspirational evening on Saturday 5 November, where audiences will be treated to a night full of rhythms influenced by African, Jazz and Western Classical traditions. The trio uses an eclectic mix of instruments from the cello and double bass to the kora and n'goni. This is interwoven with soulful vocals in African dialects such as Bambara, Zulu, Sotho and Tswana. Meanwhile, the creative studio **Âme** presents their latest cinematic, soundscape 'Fathom' on Thursday 1 December. Viola player **Lawrence Power** and filmmaker **Jessie Rodger** join forces to create an immersive experience featuring specially commissioned music by Peter Gregson, Cassandra Miller, Thomas Larcher and others, as well as projections, 360 degree sound design and live performance. Blending together, these elements explore the moment when the weather-beaten land meets the approaching sea.

Tickets for the newly added performances go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on Tuesday 12 July and to the general public on Wednesday 13 July.

**#ENDS#**

**Images:** Available to download [here](#)

**Listings:** [here](#)

**Further information:**

[www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### 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 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/](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/)

### About Purcell Sessions

Since launching in September 2021, the Southbank Centre's *Purcell Sessions* has welcomed an extraordinary line-up of artists including Coby Sey, WOOM, Lyra Pramuk, Ayana Witter Johnson, Martha Skye Murphy and Laurel Halo. *Purcell Sessions* has given audiences the opportunity to experience a breadth of artforms, including some with literature and poetry at their heart including Seder from poet Adam Kammerling, a music and poetry collaborative event focused on the climate crisis from Tongue Fu - Hot Poets, and our resident poetry and live music night Out-Spoken, which celebrates diversity of voice in writing and performance and unearths and develops new poetic talent. More information can be found on our website [here](#)



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