

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

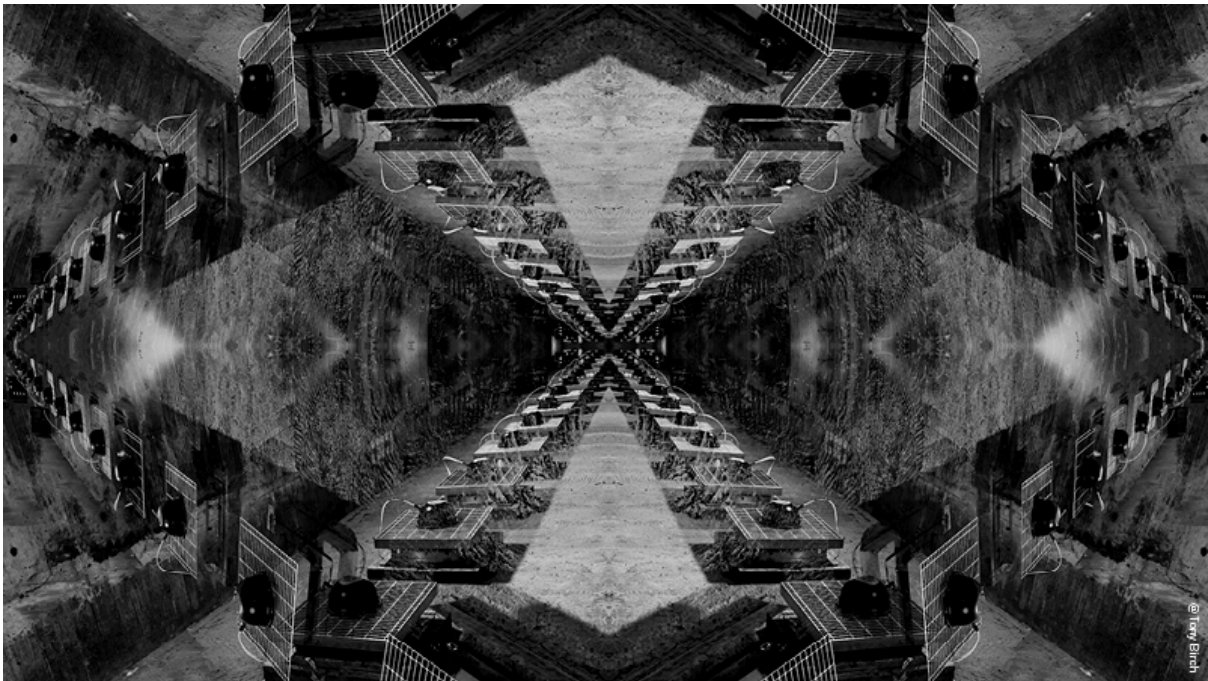
Date: Monday 7 October 2024, 2pm

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

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Southbank Centre launches unique experimental sound system **Concrete Voids** with new artist commissions



The **Southbank Centre** has today announced the first names as part of its bespoke large-scale experimental audio project, **Concrete Voids**. Concrete Voids will have its public debut with a series of concerts featuring new Southbank Centre commissioned works by rapper and producer **Lex Amor**, electronic music producer and visual artist **Jack Warne – GAUNT**, viola da gamba player **Liam Byrne** and fiddle-player **Cleek Schrey**, and cellist **Peter Gregson**.

Conceived and designed by Southbank Centre Sound Technician **Tony Birch**, Concrete Voids is a totally custom-built system of loudspeakers that turns the auditorium itself into an

epic three-dimensional instrument. Made up of over 80 speakers which are concealed within the chambers, tunnels and vents surrounding the Queen Elizabeth Hall auditorium, Concrete Voids provides artists with enormous creative opportunities to create rich and complex sound-worlds for their performances. Using spatial audio solution TiMax panLab, sound sources can be moved and manipulated within the space, even by the artist as they perform.



The Queen Elizabeth Hall vents © Pete Woodhead

Southbank Centre Artistic Director **Mark Ball** said: *'Concrete Voids is an incredible opportunity for artists to expand the horizon of their artistry as we provide a platform for new, ambitious music. Equally, audiences will be able to experience a revolutionised atmosphere in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Despite all its tonnes of concrete, the space echoes with life!'*

Showcasing the power and versatility of Concrete Voids, there will be several premiere concerts where audiences can experience this ambitious use of space and sound first hand. In the opening double-bill concert on Sunday 16 March, cellist **Peter Gregson** performs new work for cello, synthesisers and string ensemble with Southbank Centre Resident Orchestra **Aurora Orchestra**. Following, viola da gamba player **Liam Byrne** and fiddle player **Cleek Schrey** extend the resonances of their old stringed instruments, creating an expansive new sound.

On Saturday 5 April, rapper and producer **Lex Amor** blends live music, poetry, and sound design to explore the anthropological and societal themes that feature throughout her music. Finally, on Friday 3 October, multidisciplinary artist **Jack Warne – GAUNT** presents a brand new audiovisual performance, *Augmenting the Void – ULCY*. Central to the performance are four large-scale paintings by Warne, each harbouring hidden looping memories beneath their surface. These 'loops' are brought to life through a performer utilising a custom-built Augmented Reality system, crafted in partnership with artist Alistair McClymont.

On working with Concrete Voids, **Peter Gregson** said: *'Exploring Concrete Voids is incredibly exciting. It's much more than a reverb (which the Queen Elizabeth Hall already*

has in abundance!), it creates a whole new dynamic layer for us to explore on stage and watching musicians react and respond to it is hugely inspiring to me as I continue to develop my new work for it.'

More performances utilising Concrete Voids will be announced soon. Tickets for the first shows will be on-sale Thursday 10 October at 10am via:

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/events/concrete-voids/>

#ENDS#

EVENT INFORMATION

Peter Gregson and Liam Byrne & Cleek Schrey

Sunday 16 March 2025, 17:30

Tickets: £15

Lex Amor

Saturday 5 April 2025, 19:45

Tickets: £15

GAUNT

Friday 3 October 2025, 19:45

Tickets: £15

Images available: [here](#)

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying 11 acres along the river and its 4 venues anchor 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. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. 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/



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