

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

MELTDOWN

Press Release

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

Event Listings: [here](#)

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Chaka Khan announces more artists & free weekend events for Meltdown 2024



L-R: Bruce Hornsby © Tristan Williams; Les Amazones d'Afrique © Karen Paulina Biswell; Spho © Jake Turney

- **Live shows from Emeli Sandé, Bruce Hornsby, War, Les Amazones d'Afrique, Master Peace, Big Joanie, Spho, Annais, Reuben James and Peng Femme Jam**
- **Club nights hosted by Norman Jay, Adonis and Queer Bruk**
- **Two weekends of free events featuring Habibti Nation, London Queer Soundsystem, Sisters In Dub, and many more**

Chaka Khan's Meltdown continues to grow in style and spectacle with new names and two weekends of free events, taking place at the **Southbank Centre** from **Friday 14 June until Sunday 23 June**. Expressing the inimitable icon status of Chaka Khan, from her myriad musical influences to her charitable endeavours, the full line-up and extensive free programme will have the whole of London ready to groove and feel good this summer.

NEW NAMES

In the Royal Festival Hall, Chaka Khan has invited multi-award-winning and chart topping soul singer **Emeli Sandé** (15 June) to perform as part of the festival. To date, she has sold 19 million singles including three UK No.1 singles, 6 million albums and won four BRIT Awards (including Best Female twice). Meanwhile, frontman of The Range and multi-hyphenate musician and songwriter **Bruce Hornsby** (18 June) joins the bill. With no signs of slowing, Bruce Hornsby has released 23 albums and over 11 million copies sold worldwide. In 1995, he wrote 'Love Me Still' with Chaka Khan with the pair performing together in 2007 in his native Williamsburg. Finally, **War** (21 June, RFH) top off the Royal Festival Hall concerts. Led by Leroy "Lonnie" Jordan, the group transcended the racial and cultural barriers of the 1970s with its multi-genre approach and songs tackling social inequality.

In the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, there'll be standing gigs from Malian supergroup **Les Amazones d'Afrique** (14 June), who made an explosive return earlier this year with the bass-laden *Musow Danse*; indie crossover artist **Master Peace** (15 June) who released the hi-NRG hit 'I Might Be Fake' with Georgia in 2023; and Black feminist punk band **Big Joanie** (22 June), who made their Southbank Centre debut as part of Grace Jones' Meltdown in 2022.

Transforming late at night, the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer will host a number of expressive and energetic club nights, running until the early hours. Hosting the festival's opening night party will be legendary DJ **Norman Jay** with special guests (14 June). Elsewhere during the festival, there will be takeovers from hedonistic techno powerhouse **Adonis** (15 June) and **Queer Bruk** and friends, including special guest **Amorphous** (21 June), who return after their joyous club night as part of David Bowie's *Aladdin Sane* anniversary celebrations at the Southbank Centre last year.

The Purcell Room in the Queen Elizabeth Hall will feature an exciting raft of established and emerging talent in an intimate, up-close setting. Artists include French-Senegalese singer and artist **Anais** (16 June), subtle yet astounding vocalist **Sipho** (19 June), Stormzy and Sam Smith collaborator **Reuben James** (20 June), and female and non-binary jam night **Penge Femme Jam** (23 June).

FREE PROGRAMME

Integral to any Meltdown is the extensive free programme - part of the Southbank Centre's year-round commitment to accessible programming with over 40% of all events free - which takes place on the Riverside Terrace and in the Royal Festival Hall's Clore Ballroom. Drawing on her life and achievements, Chaka Khan has curated a free programme inspired by her commitment to well-being and young people, with a healthy dose of dance to bring London's communities together.

Kicking off the opening weekend festivities on Friday 14 June, SWANA party collective **Habitat Nation** hosts *Tell Me Something Good*: a spirited mash-up of house and disco and with darbuka drums, Egyptian mahraganat and Algerian raï (14 June). On Saturday 15, **London Queer Sound System Day** (LQSD) will feature a stacked line-up of DJs from some of the most influential LGBTQI+ collectives as well as a special appearance from **Taka Boom** while, on Sunday 16, under-18 dance battle group **New Movementz UK** hosts a full day of fun workshops to sharpen the audience's hip hop skills before dancers take to the floor to compete across three categories in dance battles.

During the week in the Clore Ballroom, there will be events that reflect Chaka Khan's deep interest in meditation and self-care. Pianist and composer **Karim Kamar** together with world renowned yoga instructor **Adrienne Everett** hosts *Love What You Feel: Yoga with Karim x Adrienne*, an immersive yoga experience set to live classical music (19 June). The evening closes with a wash of gongs and chimes in a transcendental sound bath hosted by mother and son duo **BALM Sound**. The following night, **Our Naked Truths** invites audiences to join a grounding life drawing class in *Eye To Eye* (20 June).

On the final weekend of the festival, South-London youth organisation and percussion group **Kinetika Bloco** open proceedings before female-led **Sisters In Dub** take over the Riverside Terrace with a heady mix of roots, reggae and more (21 June). On Saturday, **Queer C*ntry** invites people to giddy up for a barn-full day of DJs, live music and activities inspired by Americana and the blues music of Chaka Khan's native Illinois (22 June) while **Vibe Village**, a supergroup of London's best backing singers, close out the weekend (23 June).

The new names join an already buzzing line-up for Chaka Khan's Meltdown. In addition to two concerts by the curator herself, including her opening night concert with newly announced special guest DJ **Trevor Nelson** (14 June), the festival will feature performances from **Speakers Corner Quartet, Incognito, Lady Blackbird, Morcheeba, Balimaya Project, Judi Jackson, Mica Paris** and **Rahsaan Patterson**.

Commenting on the latest artists to join the line-up, **Chaka Khan** said: "We're a world of beauty and wonderful things. Each of us makes up parts of a bouquet. Let's celebrate our diversity with the best of the best, from pop to punk to tech to funk. The summer nights and days flowing with our world of family, friends and a whole lotta love."

Adem Holness, Head of Contemporary Music at the Southbank Centre, added: "Chaka Khan's incredible energy and commitment to music, young people and well-being really resonates with the Southbank Centre's artistic goals and values and is helping us to create a particularly special Meltdown, providing a love-filled space for everyone to come together."

Tickets for the new shows will go on general sale on Thursday 18 April at 10:00am via: <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/meltdown>

#ENDS#

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

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Meltdown, 1993 – present

The Southbank Centre's award-winning Meltdown festival has been running annually since 1993 and is the longest-running artist-curated festival in the world. Each year the Southbank Centre invites a different cultural figure to act as curator and select performers and events of their choosing. Previous curators are: Christine and the Queens, Grace Jones, Nile Rodgers, Robert Smith, M.I.A., Guy Garvey, David Byrne, James Lavelle, Yoko Ono, Anohni, Ray Davies, Richard Thomson, Ornette Coleman, Massive Attack, Jarvis Cocker, Patti Smith, Morrissey, Lee Scratch-Perry, David Bowie, Robert Wyatt, Scott Walker, Nick Cave, John Peel, Laurie Anderson, Magnus Lindberg, Elvis Costello, Louis Andriessen and George Benjamin. Previous performers include Philip Glass, Lou Reed, Ivor Cutler, Sonic Youth, Suicide, Nina Simone, Blur, Radiohead, David Gilmour, Coldplay, Mercury Rev, Television, The Dandy Warhols, The Polyphonic Spree, The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Nancy Sinatra, Bert

Jansch, Jeff Beck, John Cale, Iggy & The Stooges, Motorhead, Massive Attack, Moby, Nine Inch Nails, The Libertines, The Cure and Femi Kuti. Meltdown has a reputation for staging one-off performances and collaborations by legendary artists. Patti Smith performed Horses in full for her Meltdown; Ray Davies re-staged the TV pop show 'Ready Steady Go!'; Jeff Buckley played his final UK show at Elvis Costello's Meltdown; The New York Dolls reunited for Morrissey; Nick Cave, Grace Jones and Pete Doherty sang Disney songs with Jarvis Cocker; and a rare live performance from Cocteau Twins' Elizabeth Fraser was part of Anohni's Meltdown. Robert Smith's 2018 Meltdown, Grace Jones' 2022 Meltdown and Christine and the Queens' 2023 Meltdown were all nominated for the Music Week Awards' Festival of the Year with Smith's also winning the AIM Independent Music Awards 'Act of Independence' Award.

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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