

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Images: Available to download [HERE](#)

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Southbank Centre announces 2024 artists for free gig series *futuretense* in collaboration with BBC Music Introducing



Mychelle © Mike Excell; DEJA © Johann Kööp; Neils © Ahmed Idries

The **Southbank Centre** today reveals the rising stars performing as part of **futuretense**, its free gig series providing a platform for emerging artists. In 2024, **BBC Music Introducing** joins as a partner to deliver this innovative new music programme, showcasing the next generation of talent.

futuretense returns on Thursday 18 January, continuing fortnightly on Thursdays from 6:00pm in the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer. As part of the partnership, BBC Music Introducing will collaborate with the Southbank Centre, programming two musicians to perform each month.

This collaboration further amplifies the Southbank Centre's ongoing commitment to build creative partnerships whilst nurturing underrepresented artists and supporting grassroots music initiatives. Since launching in 2019, **futuretense** delivers a breadth of performance opportunities and provides a welcoming space for everyone to relax and experience live music entirely for free.

futuretense has propelled numerous artists into the global spotlight including the likes of **Erika De Casier, Wu-Lu, Ego Ella May, Kai Whiston, Sinaed O'Brien, Lex Amor, CHERISE, DeeRiginal, Sheiva and Afronaught Zu.**

Edith Odame Kwakye, futuretense programming lead and Contemporary Music Programming Assistant at the Southbank Centre, says: *"I think that the futuretense partnership with BBC Music Introducing marks an incredible opportunity to amplify emerging artists by providing both a physical space and a powerful platform to showcase their art and build a community. The partnership aims to elevate and empower artists, ensuring they are not just heard but also seen, disrupting the musical landscape and fostering a community that celebrates diverse voices and creative expression."*

Kelly Betts, Editor at BBC Music Introducing, adds: *"BBC Introducing and futuretense have the same ethos when it comes to supporting emerging artists which is why we're so excited to be partnering with them again. Previously, we provided an early gig platform for artists like Ego, Ella Mai and Kyra who have all gone on to amazing things. These nights are set to be the place to uncover really exciting musicians, I personally can't wait."*

This year's lineup opens with **repair** on Thursday 18 January, a London-based jazz electronic quartet who recently took the EFG London Jazz Festival by storm with their psychedelic soul combined with smooth, hypnotic electronics. After releasing two new singles last year, 'Colours' and 'Hold On to Me', the band have gone on to perform at Wilderness Festival, Outernet's Lower Third and Crazy Coqs Jazz Club. The Ivor Novello Rising Star 2022 nominee **Ashaine White** follows with a rich fusion of blues and grunge. Drawing on a myriad of influences from 90s alt-rock to soulful jazz, Ashaine is carving her own untrodden musical path. Her critically acclaimed project *Ash* (2023) was recognised in Bandcamp's New and Notable, Spotify's Fresh Finds and Soundcloud's Fresh Pressed.

Multi-instrumentalist **SRF** delivers an eclectic set on Thursday 22 February inspired by 1960s rock through to 90s R&B. Alongside playing the guitar in a jazz experimental band featuring Rudi Creswick, Jules War and Fraser Harding, SRF has performed solo at Pitchfork Paris (2023) with rising star Ray Laurel. The evening closes with nostalgic and hypnotic RnB beats from leading producer **Niels**.

On Thursday 29 February, Hackney-born singer, songwriter and guitarist **Mychelle** shares a relaxing blend of acoustic folk pop mixed with mellow R&B. Mychelle has captivated the UK music industry since releasing her debut single *The Way* in 2021 where she reached critical acclaim for her versatile vocal range and expansive soundscapes. Meanwhile, rising star **DEJA**, shares her bold, high energy rapping style that explores self belief and female expression. Last summer, she headlined Cambridge Pride and was chosen as one of the top 10 finalists for MOBO UnSung competition in 2023. In November, her track 'Fine Fine Girl' was BBC Radio 1's Track of the Week. Her articulate vocal delivery and unhindered self expression has placed **DEJA** at the forefront of the music circuit.

On Thursday 7 March, Birmingham-based contemporary folk singer-songwriter **Aayushi** takes to the stage with her distinct soothing vocals and poetic lyrics. Inspired by her Indian heritage, her music reached new heights after appearing in Spotify's 'Most Beautiful Songs in the World' and 'New Music Friday UK' playlists, reaching over 7 million Spotify streams to date. West London Punjabi singer-songwriter **Golden Roots** follows with his unique drum and bass remix. As a major advocate for South Asian representation in the music industry, **Golden Roots** uses his music to explore socio-political narratives such as cultural discrimination and injustice.

Leading multi-instrumentalist **KATYA** brings her jazz infused beats to the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer on 28 March. After gaining recognition for her debut single 'I'll Take Your Number'

last year in collaboration with trumpeter Jackson Mathod and Grammy-award winning 'Spike' Stent, Katya has gone to perform the festival circuit including an appearance at Glastonbury. Meanwhile, Spanish artist **MAVICA** ends the show with her unique ethereal vocals interwoven with electronic synth and instrumentation. Her single 'You Can Never Do That' (2023), redefines the parameters of the UK Hip-Hop scene with her rich lyrics that explore empowerment and female identity.

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IMAGES

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

EVENT LISTINGS

[ASHAINE WHITE + RESPAIR](#)

Thursday 18 January, 6pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer

[NIELS + SRF](#)

Thursday 22 February, 5.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer

Please note the earlier time.

[DEJA + MYCHELLE](#)

Thursday 29 February, 6pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer

[FUTURETENSE X DIALLED IN: AAYUSHI + GOLDEN ROOTS](#)

Thursday 7 March, 6pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer

[KATYA + MAVICA](#)

Thursday 28 March, 6pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer

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).

www.southbankcentre.co.uk



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