

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

SoundState

Press Release

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Images: available to download [here](#)

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Southbank Centre's SoundState makes anticipated return with five-day festival of boundary breaking music



Top L-R: Liza Lim © Harald Hoffman, GBSR Duo © Dejan Mrdja
Bottom: Edward Gardner © Benjamin Ealovega

- Running from **30 March until 3 April 2022**, the eclectic festival of paid and free events celebrates daring new frontiers of sound on topics from climate change to the female body

- Newly announced show on Sunday April 3: percussion-piano pair **GBSR Duo** with composer and organist **Eva-Maria Houben**
- Highlights include vocal pioneer **Meredith Monk**, acclaimed ensemble **Arditti Quartet**, **London Sinfonietta** with new works from **George Lewis**, the **Philharmonia Orchestra** with **Wu Wei**, **Liza Lim's Sex Magic**, a **Southbank Centre co-commission**.
- Festival opens with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** conducted by Principal Conductor Edward Gardner in premieres by **Rebecca Saunders**, **Mason Bates** and **Missy Mazzoli**
- Tickets available now [here](#)

The Southbank Centre has today announced a new addition to its programme for the pioneering festival of new music, **SoundState**. Taking place over five days from **30 March until 3 April**, SoundState will exclusively champion new works with paid-for and free concerts by performers and composers who are radically reimagining what it means to make music in the 21st century.

Joining the festival on Sunday 3 April, **GBSR Duo and Eva-Maria Houben** will deliver Houben's evocative work for piano, percussion and organ, 'together on the way'. Performed for the first time in 2021, the piece is full of shifting segments which explore how time and music intertwine as the three instruments respond to one another.

SoundState kicks off on Wednesday 30 March with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra: Visions & Utterances**. A collection of works performed by one of the Centre's Resident Orchestras, conducted by Edward Gardner, the evening will include the UK premieres of **Missy Mazzoli's** sweeping 'River Rouge Transfiguration' and **Rebecca Saunders'** formidable 'to an utterance'. The London Philharmonic Orchestra will also debut **Mason Bates'** water-inspired conceptual work 'Liquid Interference', a rushing mix of orchestral sounds and electronica which invokes the devastating impact of rising temperatures.

The following day, on Thursday 31 March, fellow Southbank Centre residents the **London Sinfonietta** will perform a varied programme including the world premieres of 'Deformation of Mastery' by **George Lewis** and 'Candyfolk SpaceDrum' by **Alex Paxton**. This kaleidoscopic and frenetic work is inspired by the paintings of Bosch and Bruegel, and features a children's choir as well as an improvising soloist and live electronics.

A true titan of contemporary vocal talent, **Meredith Monk** will take to the Royal Festival Hall stage on Friday 1 April to perform the UK premiere of 'Memory Games'. Drawing on her creative fluidity as a filmmaker, choreographer and composer, 'Memory Games' is a remarkable arrangement of previously unrecorded works. It will include fragments from her award-winning sci-fi opera *The Games*, as well as new versions of several pieces originally released on records *Do You Be* (1987) and *impermanence* (2008). Monk, who has inspired a generation of artists and become a potent touchstone for cultural figures as diverse as the Cohen Brothers to DJ Shadow, will be joined by genre blurring ensemble **Bang on a Can All-Stars**, who have achieved international stardom for their ultra-dynamic live shows.

Saturday 2 April, meanwhile, features an action-packed bill of performances. At 2pm, acclaimed string ensemble the **Arditti Quartet**, champions of contemporary chamber music for over 40 years, will showcase their prowess with UK premieres from **Betsy Jolas**, **Tansy Davies** and more. Later in the day in the Purcell Room, pianist **Mark Knopfler** will apply his versatile technique and individuality to a world premiere from **Akiko Ushijima**.

Bringing Saturday to a thrilling climax, celebrated flautist **Claire Chase** will give a very special in-the-round performance of **Liza Lim's** 'Sex Magic' in the Queen Elizabeth Hall – not once, but twice. Co-commissioned by the Southbank Centre and Chase as part of her epic 24-year long project *Destiny 2036*, 'Sex Magic' will be performed at 5pm and 8pm. The piece explores the power of the female body, from the cycles of the womb to life-making powers of childbirth, through a unique combination of contrabass flute, electronics and installed kinetic instruments.

Finally, closing out SoundState on Sunday 3 April, Southbank Centre residents the **Philharmonia Orchestra** continue their much loved free-to-attend **Music of Today** series. Members of the Philharmonia Orchestra will be joined by **Wu Wei**, the world-renowned master of the sheng, a Chinese mouth organ, in the Purcell Room for **Liza Lim's** compelling 'How Forests Think'. Anna Thorvaldsdottir's 'Entropic Arrows' completes the programme.

Gillian Moore CBE, Director of Music and Performing Arts at the Southbank Centre, said: "*The success of 2019's inaugural edition of SoundState made it clear there was an appetite for bold new music that interrogates our understanding of music and the world. 2022's five-day programme will confirm the essential importance of these artists and composers, engaging with universal issues from climate change to the female body, and further elevate the Southbank Centre's status as an unparalleled home for boundary breaking creativity that is open to all.*"

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For further press information please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Full SoundState 2022 Programme [here](#).

Wednesday 30 March 2022

London Philharmonic Orchestra: Visions & Utterances

Edward Gardner *conductor*

Nicolas Hodges *piano*

Missy Mazzoli: 'River Rouge Transfiguration' (UK premiere); Rebecca Saunders 'to an utterance, for piano & orchestra' (UK premiere); Mason Bates 'Liquid Interface' (UK premiere); Walker 'Sinfonia No.5 (Visions)' (UK premiere)

Thursday 31 March 2022

London Sinfonietta at SoundState

Alex Paxton *trombone*

Martin France *jazz drum kit*

London Sinfonietta

Programme includes: Alex Paxton 'Candyfolk SpaceDrum' (world premiere); George Lewis 'Deformation of Mastery' (world premiere); George Lewis 'Emergent for solo flute'.

Friday 1 April 2022

Meredith Monk & Bang on a Can All Stars: Memory Game

Composer and vocalist Meredith Monk and the Bang on a Can ensemble perform Monk's acclaimed song series Memory Game

Saturday 2 April 2022

Arditti Quartet

Betsy Jolas new work (UK premiere); Tansy Davies new work (UK premiere); Christian Mason new work (UK premiere); Clara Maïda '...das spinnt for amplified string quartet'.

Mark Knoop

Akiko Ushijima: New work (world premiere); Nancarrow: 'Canon C from 3 Canons for Ursula';

Matthew Shlomowitz: 'Explorations in polytonality and other musical wonders, Volume 1'

Liza Lim's Sex Magic

Claire Chase *flute*

Liza Lim 'Sex Magic for contrabass flute with live electronics & installation of kinetic instruments' (European premiere)

Sunday 3 April 2022

GBSR Duo + Eva-Maria Houben

GBSR Duo *piano and percussion*

Eva Maria Houben *organ*

Eva-Maria Houben: 'together on the way'

Philharmonia Orchestra: Music of Today

Players from the Philharmonia Orchestra

Manoj Kamps *conductor*

Wu Wei *sheng*

Anna Thorvaldsdottir 'Entropic Arrows'; Liza Lim 'How Forests Think'

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).



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