

Barbican and Culture Mile announce Sound Unbound, free festival of music, 18-19 May 2019

Sound Unbound festival returns in May 2019

Sound Unbound, the ambitious weekend-long project celebrating classical music from the medieval era to the present day returns **18-19 May** and, for the first time, will be **completely free**. A Culture Mile event programmed by the Barbican, the festival will explore unexpected spaces across Culture Mile, which stretches from Farringdon to Moorgate in the north-west of the Square Mile, celebrating fantastic music alongside the history and heritage of the area. www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2019/event/sound-unbound

Sound Unbound has previously enjoyed two hugely successful editions in 2015 and 2017. The weekender gives everyone the chance to explore new sounds and rediscover familiar ones, from medieval to modern, in a relaxed festival environment. The weekend features artists for whom the boundaries between classical music and contemporary, experimental music and jazz have been blurred – or never even existed in the first place. With multiple concerts taking place simultaneously, each festival-goer will be able to pick and choose from a vast range of performances and create their own unique version of Sound Unbound.

Music and spaces without boundaries

The festival features over 70 short concerts in one weekend, spanning hundreds of years of music. Alongside new commissions, visitors can also hear some well-known classics, get close to some of the most versatile artists of our time and experience a myriad of different musical styles from across the ages.

This year the festival venues across Culture Mile will be as versatile as the music and the line-up. They will range from medieval St Barts The Great to the brutalism of the Barbican Centre, from fabric nightclub to The Charterhouse, whose fascinating story began during the Black Death, mirroring the great variety of centuries of music in architecture. In addition to discovering new music, audiences will now also be able to discover new spaces in Culture Mile that aren't usually open to the public – and to hear new sounds in new places.

Artists

The line-up will feature artists such as award winning and record chart topping classical guitarist **Miloš**, whose repertoire ranges from Rodrigo to Beatles; **Britten Sinfonia** and **Thomas Adès** performing one of Beethoven's most popular works, the *Eroica* symphony; **Wave Ensemble** and the **Academy of Ancient Music** presenting Bach in new arrangements for two marimbas and orchestra; **Peter Dijkstra** conducting the **BBC Singers** in choral music through the ages; **Gabriel Prokofiev** and **Nonclassical** hosting a DJ clubnight and presenting *Nonclassical @ fabric*; Belgian electric guitar quartet **Zwerm** performing Renaissance music and, together with New York based electric guitar quartet **Dither**, Steve Reich's *Electric Counterpoint*; **London Symphony Chorus** presenting Orff's classic *Carmina Burana* accompanied by two pianos and percussion; **Chineke! Orchestra** performing music by Britten and Holst; viol player **Liam Byrne** who will transform old music into something new in a programme that also includes Nico Muhly's *Long Phrases for the Wilton Diptych* (inspired by The Wilton Diptych from 1395-9); and **Street Orchestra Live** giving pop-up performances throughout the festival.

Special projects include *Stalin's Piano* by Australian composer Robert Davidson, which combines music with video and audio recordings of eminent artists and political figures from Le Corbusier to Shostakovich, Jackson Pollock to Ai Wei Wei, and Julia Gillard to Donald Trump. In their project *HUSH*, singer **Nora Fischer** and guitarist **Marnix Dorrestein** redefine beautiful 17th century songs by Monteverdi, Purcell and Dowland in the spirit of a modern pop-song. In her other project, *The Secret Diary of Nora Plain*, Nora Fischer moves between

pop, jazz and classical and tells the story of Nora Plain, trying to live as an individual in the increasingly monitored society of today.

The full line-up details will be announced in April.

Festival venues

Barbican Hall
Barbican Clubstage
Barbican Freestage
Barbican Cinema 1
Barbican Fountain Room
Barbican Conservatory
Barbican Lakeside
Milton Court Concert Hall
St Giles' Cripplegate
LSO St Luke's
Charterhouse Chapel
Charterhouse Great Chamber
Charterhouse Norfolk Cloister
Charterhouse Norfolk Garden
fabric
Museum of London
St Bart's the Great
St Bart's the Less
Piano Smithfield
Smithfield Rotunda Gardens

Plans for Culture Mile were announced in July 2017. Led by the City of London Corporation with the Barbican, Guildhall School, London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of London, the five core partners will lead the transformation of the area over the next decade and beyond, improving their offer to audiences with imaginative collaborations, outdoor programming and events seven days a week. Links between venues will be improved and major enhancements to the streets and wider public realm will enliven the area which, as Culture Mile expands and flourishes, will be regenerated. Crossrail's new Elizabeth Line connections at Farringdon and Moorgate will make it much easier to travel to, and from, the City. Around 1.5 million additional visitors a year will be within a 45-minute journey of the area when the Elizabeth Line becomes fully operational and the North-South Thameslink line is upgraded.

Notes to Editors

A Culture Mile event, *Sound Unbound* is a joint project between the Barbican, London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, Academy of Ancient Music and Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Barbican Box Office: 0845 120 7550

www.barbican.org.uk

Press Information

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About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over 1.1 million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, the Pit, Cinemas One, Two and Three, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue Entertainment](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

Find us on [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#)

About Culture Mile

Culture Mile is a corner of London's working capital, where creativity is fast becoming the most valuable currency. The City of London Corporation, together with the Barbican, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of London, is leading the animation of the whole neighbourhood with imaginative collaborations and events. Culture Mile brings commerce and culture together in a wealth of creativity. Known meets unknown. Ancient and modern collide as the streets are activated by exhibitions, gigs, pop-ups and events. So whether you're with family, friends or flying solo, there's something for everyone. And thanks to Crossrail's new Elizabeth Line connections at Farringdon and Moorgate, the area is more connected than ever. Join us today where two thousand years of history collide with the world's best culture. www.culturemile.london

The Culture Mile Network is an extensive network of organisations in and around the area which are playing a critical role in realising the ambitions of Culture Mile, alongside the five core partners. See www.culturemile.london/who-we-are/ for the latest members.

About the City of London Corporation

The City of London Corporation is the governing body of the Square Mile dedicated to a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

About the Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London. Rated Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework and ranked as the UK's top conservatoire in the Guardian University Guide 2019 for Music, the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes

innovation, experiment and research, with over 1,000 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world. www.gsmd.ac.uk

About the London Symphony Orchestra

The LSO was established in 1904 and has a unique ethos. As a musical collective, it is built on artistic ownership and partnership. With an inimitable signature sound, the LSO's mission is to bring the greatest music to the greatest number of people. The LSO has been the only Resident Orchestra at the Barbican Centre in the City of London since it opened in 1982, giving 70 symphonic concerts there every year. The Orchestra works with a family of artists that includes some of the world's greatest conductors – Sir Simon Rattle as Music Director, Gianandrea Noseda and François-Xavier Roth as Principal Guest Conductors, Michael Tilson Thomas as Conductor Laureate and André Previn as Conductor Emeritus. Through LSO Discovery, it is a pioneer of music education, offering musical experiences to 60,000 people every year and over 100 live events at its music education centre LSO St Luke's on Old Street. With the formation of its own record label LSO Live in 1999 the LSO pioneered a revolution in recording live orchestral music. The LSO strives to embrace new digital technologies – having successfully moved into digital film, Blu-Ray Audio, downloads, streaming and virtual reality – and it continues to innovate with platforms such as LSO Play, a web-based video player that allows people to observe the Orchestra from different angles. The LSO is also a highly successful creative enterprise, with 80% of all funding self-generated. www.lso.co.uk

About The Museum of London

The Museum of London tells the ever-changing story of this great world city and its people, from 450,000 BC to the present day. Our galleries, exhibitions, displays and activities seek to inspire a passion for London and provide a sense of the vibrancy that makes the city such a unique place.

The museum is open daily 10am – 6pm and is FREE to all, and you can explore the Museum of London with collections online – home to 90,000 objects with more being added. www.museumoflondon.org.uk.

About the Academy of Ancient Music

The Academy of Ancient Music is an orchestra with a worldwide reputation for excellence in Baroque and Classical music. It takes inspiration directly from the music's composers, using historically informed techniques, period-specific instruments and original sources to bring music to life in committed, vibrant performances.

The ensemble was founded by Christopher Hogwood in 1973 and remains at the forefront of the worldwide early music scene more than four decades on; Richard Egarr became its Music Director in 2006. AAM is proud to be the most listened-to orchestra of its kind online and has released more than 300 discs, most recently on its own record label, AAM Records. Among its countless accolades for recording are Classic BRIT, Gramophone and Edison awards.

The AAM is based in Cambridge and is Orchestra-in-Residence at the city's university. Its London home is the Barbican Centre, where it is Associate Ensemble, and it is also Orchestra-in-Residence at the Grange Festival, Chiltern Arts Festival, Music at Oxford and the Apex, Bury St Edmunds. www.aam.co.uk

About the BBC Singers

The BBC Singers hold a unique position in British musical life. Performing everything from Byrd to Birtwistle, Tallis to Takemitsu, their versatility is second to none. The choir's unrivalled relationships with some of the most important composers and conductors of the 20th and 21st centuries, including Poulenc, Britten, Judith Bingham and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. The Singers' forthcoming 2018-19 season will showcase a rich and wide-ranging selection of choral music from across the centuries, from much-loved masterpieces including Handel's

Israel in Egypt and works by Lully and Rameau supported by the Akademi South Asian Dance Company to fresh and contemporary music by Roderick Williams and Bob Chilcott. Many of these performances will be led by the BBC Singers new Chief Conductor, Sofi Jeannin. Based at the BBC's Maida Vale Studios, the BBC Singers also give regular free concerts at St Paul's Knightsbridge, as well as regularly appearing at major festivals across the UK and beyond. The Singers are committed to sharing their enthusiasm and creative expertise through its nationwide outreach programme. This includes frequent collaborations with schoolchildren, youth choirs and the amateur choral community, as well as with the professional composers, singers and conductors of tomorrow. www.bbc.co.uk/singers

About Britten Sinfonia

Just over 25 years ago, Britten Sinfonia was established as a bold reimagining of the conventional image of a chamber orchestra. A flexible ensemble of some of the UK's leading soloists and chamber musicians came together with a unique vision: to collapse the boundaries between old and new music, to collaborate with composers, performers and guest artists across artforms and genres; and to create involving, intelligent music events that both audiences and performers experience with an unusual intensity.

Britten Sinfonia is an Associate Ensemble at the Barbican in London and Resident Orchestra at Saffron Hall, with residencies in Norwich and Cambridge and performs a chamber music series at Wigmore Hall. The orchestra has a busy international touring schedule, appearing throughout Europe, the USA and Asia and its 2018 performance with The Sixteen at the Sistine Chapel reached more than a million people worldwide. www.brittensinfonia.com

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HALL
SCHOOL**



LSO



AAM

SO **BBC**
Symphony
Orchestra & Chorus

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