

For immediate release: Tuesday 17 November 2020

## Barbican announces a series of festive live and livestreamed concerts

The Barbican today announced a series of Christmas concerts to be enjoyed by both a reduced, socially-distanced live audience in the Barbican Hall and a global livestream audience at home, featuring performances from saxophonist **Jess Gillam**, singer-songwriter **Katie Melua**, actor **Kevin Whately**, Barbican Associate Ensemble **Academy of Ancient Music** in Handel's *Messiah*, and **BBC Singers** conducted by **Bob Chilcott**.

This continues the successful season of live and livestreamed concerts as part of [Live from the Barbican](#), which have been taking place at the Barbican Hall since October. All performances will be streamed to a global audience live on a pay-to-view basis, with 48 hours to view or re-watch the concert after it begins. Tickets for the socially-distanced live experience in the auditorium will be available for all concerts, if Government guidance permits this.

Tue 15 December 2020, livestreamed from Barbican Hall, 7pm

[A Choral Christmas with Jess Gillam and Katie Melua](#)

Tickets £12.50 (streamed), £20 - £40 (live)

Saxophonist **Jess Gillam**, whose recent second album *TIME* saw her reach No 1 in the UK's Official Classical Artist Chart, takes to the Barbican Hall stage this Christmas as she hosts and performs in an evening of festive music for a live and livestreamed audience.

Gillam is joined by singer-songwriter **Katie Melua**, one of Britain's most successful recording artists of the millennium, as well as the **BBC Singers** conducted by **Principal Guest Conductor Bob Chilcott**, and members of the **BBC Concert Orchestra**.

Coinciding with the release of her eighth-studio album this autumn, *Album No.8*, the concert will see Melua perform new soulful songs as well as seasonal ones from her 2016 Christmas record *In Winter*. The evening will also include performances of traditional favourites, including **Chilcott's** arrangement of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and *Have yourself a merry little Christmas*.

Co-produced by the Barbican and BBC Singers

Sat 19 December 2020, livestreamed from Barbican Hall, 7pm

[Handel's Messiah - Academy of Ancient Music / Egarr](#)

Tickets £12.50 (streamed), £20 - £40 (live)

(Please note this performance was originally scheduled to take place on 18 December)

Barbican Associate Ensemble the **Academy of Ancient Music** celebrate their return to the Barbican Hall with a performance of the seasonal classic, **Handel's Messiah**, directed by **Richard Egarr**. This rescheduled concert will now be both live and livestreamed, available for local and international audiences alike to enjoy.

Despite trying times, the Barbican is determined to continue its annual tradition of hosting a performance of the *Messiah* for the festive season, with the AAM's period instruments bringing a vibrancy and vitality that is acclaimed internationally. They are joined on the night by a glittering array of British talent - soprano **Rowan Pierce**, countertenor **Iestyn Davies**, tenor **Ben Johnson** and bass **Ashley Riches**.

First performed in 1742 as part of an Easter celebration, Messiah tells the story of the nativity, death and resurrection of Christ and has been a Christmas favourite for more than a century.

Co-produced by the Barbican and the Academy of Ancient Music

Tue 22 December 2020, livestreamed from Barbican Hall, 7pm

**[A Dickensian Christmas](#)**

Tickets £12.50 (streamed), £20 - £30 (live)

**Kevin Whately**, English screen star known for his roles in TV crime dramas *Inspector Morse* and *Lewis*, joins the **London Concert Brass** conducted by **Hilary Davan Wetton** for a festive evening for all the family.

Whately will bring to life a selection of readings from Charles Dickens' festive fixture, *A Christmas Carol*, which will be accompanied by a programme of classic Victorian carols for choir and brass, including *Deck the Hall*, *Ding Dong Merrily on High* and *Sussex Carol*, *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *The Holly and the Ivy*.

Co-produced by the Barbican and Raymond Gubbay Ltd

The Barbican believes in creating space for people and ideas to connect through its international arts programme, community events and learning activity. To keep its programme accessible to everyone, and to keep investing in the artists it works with, the Barbican needs to raise more than 60% of its income through ticket sales, commercial activities and fundraising every year. Donations can be made here: [barbican.org.uk/join-support/support-us/for-individuals/make-a-donation](http://barbican.org.uk/join-support/support-us/for-individuals/make-a-donation)

## ENDS

### Notes to Editors

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[www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)

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### Barbican Reopening Information

After successfully reopening its Galleries and Conservatory in July/August followed by Cinema 1 in September, the Barbican continues its phased reopening with new events, installations and in-person activities to welcome more audiences back into the Centre.

In line with government guidelines, new safety measures are in place including operating at reduced capacity, timed entry slots to ensure a safe flow of visitors through the space, with tickets needing to be booked online at [barbican.org.uk](https://www.barbican.org.uk) in advance of a visit. Safety and visitor information is available here: [barbican.org.uk/your-visit/coronavirus-advice/essential-safety-information](https://www.barbican.org.uk/your-visit/coronavirus-advice/essential-safety-information)

Details of when the Barbican's other venues and public spaces will reopen will be announced in due course. Everyone who has booked a ticket for a cancelled or postponed Barbican event is eligible for a full refund. Information on how to claim this is published [here](#). Venue hire will also resume in the future, in accordance with government guidance.

The Barbican is encouraging audiences to [make a donation](#) so it can keep investing in the artists and organisations with whom it works. Audiences are also being asked to [consider donating to the Centre's Resident and Associate companies](#) to support them through these difficult times.

### **Read, Watch, Listen**

Digital content is available via the Barbican's website through [Read, Watch & Listen](#), [Cinema on Demand](#), [Live from the Barbican](#) and its social channels. In addition, podcasts can also be accessed by subscribing to the **Nothing Concrete** podcast via [Acast](#), [Spotify](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

### **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 a 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 1, 2 and 3, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, public spaces, a library, the 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](#), [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.

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