

BARBICAN CONTEMPORARY-CLASSICAL EVENTS (DEC 2022)

Sō Percussion with Caroline Shaw

Sun 4 Dec 2022, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm

Tickets from £15 plus booking fee

Brooklyn-based four-piece contemporary ensemble **Sō Percussion** returns to the Barbican's music programme for the first time in five years, joined by Pulitzer Prize and multi-Grammy Award-winning American composer and musician **Caroline Shaw**.

Angelica Negron's *Gone*, played on custom-made Bricolo robotic instruments, opens the evening, followed by a performance of Julia Wolfe's *Forbidden Love*. In the second half, **Caroline Shaw** joins the group for selections from her two 2021 albums – both written in collaboration with Sō Percussion and both drawing on Shaw's melting pot of inspirations: rhythm, nature, literary quotes and hymns. *Narrow Sea* moves with the ebbs and flows of water, creating a timeless sense of movement. *Let the Soil Play Its Simple Part* sparkles with a heavenly beauty.

Sō Percussion have built an international reputation for their original compositions, percussion performances and education projects. They last appeared at the Barbican in autumn 2017, presenting an audio-visual exploration of the social history of British coal mining, *From Out a Darker Sea*, and previously performed as part of Bryce Dessner and Nico Muhly's marathon weekends.

Caroline Shaw is a musician who moves between roles, genres, and mediums, trying to imagine a world of sound that has never been heard before but has always existed. She is the recipient of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Music, several Grammy awards, an honorary doctorate from Yale, and a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. She has worked with a range of artists including Rosalía, Renée Fleming, Yo Yo Ma, and Kanye West, and she has contributed music to films and tv series including *Fleishman is in Trouble*, *Bombshell*, *Yellowjackets*, *Maid*, *Dark*, and Beyoncé's *Homecoming*.

Find out more [here](#)

Seven Septets

Tues 6 December 2022, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7:30pm

Tickets from £15 plus booking fee

Classical, Jazz and experimental improvisation fuse in a showcase of music from some of the UK's brightest composer-performers. With historical roots (harking back to the salons of the 17th/18th century, when musicians were generally both composers and performers) but with its musical pulse firmly beating in the 21st century, *Seven Septets* is a musical 'pass the parcel', where each unwrapped layer reveals an intriguing new musical direction. Each musician takes a turn to lead with a musical concept of their own, while the remainder of the group illuminate these ideas with their own semi-improvised accompaniment. There are no prescribed rules; the openness of the musical exchanges allows the strong ideas and personalities of each artist to come across, and creates space and focus for new combinations of music, sound and performance to develop.

The seven musicians featured in *Seven Septets* are:

Héloïse Werner: 'latter-day Cathy Berberian or Meredith Monk' [The Times], winner of the RPS Music Award for Young Artist 2021, soprano-composer and co-founder of The Hermes Experiment.

Jas Kayser: drummer, percussionist, pianist and composer and Jazz FM Breakthrough Act of the Year Award 2021.

Angela Wai Nok Hui: artist, percussionist and sound designer

Fred Thomas: ECM artist, 'boundary-blurring' [The Guardian] composer, arranger and producer.

Kit Downes: Mercury nominated and BBC Jazz Award winning pianist, organist and composer.

Laura Moody: 'wildly alternative' [Soundfly] cellist, vocalist and theatre performer.
Colin Alexander: composer, cellist and founder of artist-led label and site, October House Records.

Find out more [here](#)

NOW BOOKING FOR 2023

The Hermes Experiment & Shiva Feshareki
Thur 26 Jan 2023, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7:30pm
Tickets from £15 plus booking fee

Winners of the Royal Philharmonic Society Young Artist Award 2021, vibrant contemporary quartet **The Hermes Experiment** collaborates with composer and turntablist **Shiva Feshareki** in a concert dedicated to the memory of artist and composer Mira Calix. The programme includes Oliver Leith's *Uh huh, Yeah*, Stevie Wishart's *Eurostar – a journey between cities in sound*, Mira Calix's *DMe*, Jethro Cooke & The Hermes Experiment's *Metropolis* and the premiere performance of a new Barbican co-commissioned work by Shiva Feshareki.

The Hermes Experiment is made up of harp, clarinet, voice and double bass. Capitalising on their deliberately idiosyncratic combination of instruments, the ensemble regularly commissions new works, as well as creating their own innovative arrangements and venturing into live free improvisation. The ensemble has commissioned over 60 composers at various stages of their careers. They have released two albums to critical acclaim: *HERE WE ARE* and *SONG* (Delphian Records).

Shiva Feshareki merges live ambisonic turntablism with acoustic instrumentation in a mesmerising new composition crafted especially for the high specification acoustics of Milton Court. The new work is exemplary of Feshareki's immersive approach in which her compositions are never the same twice. Feshareki will sculpt a live spatial electronic composition in direct response to her acoustic piece performed by The Hermes Experiment. The resulting duo is a cosmic dance of energy between acoustic and electronic sound, whirling and gliding around Milton Court. As a self-described 'sonic architect' and experimenter, Feshareki's unique ability to wield her turntables in and among the intricate acoustics of a space creates a deeply hypnotic physical experience.

Find out more [here](#)

Ends

Notes to Editors

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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 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](#). 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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