

BARBICAN'S CLASSICAL MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS CALENDAR (JANUARY – JUNE 2023)

JANUARY

- **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain** kick-starts the new year with a performance of Benjamin Britten's *Four Sea Interludes*, Anna Clyne's mesmerising *RIFT* and Richard Strauss's *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, conducted by **Alexandre Bloch** ([4 Jan](#))
- 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, a cosmic dance of energy between acoustic and electronic sound, whirling and gliding around Milton Court. ([26 Jan](#)).
- The beauty and fragility of our world are explored in a family concert of sound and storytelling, with the drawings of artist **Grégoire Pont** projected live alongside thrilling music from the **BBC Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Dalia Stasevska**. ([28 Jan](#))

FEBRUARY

- **Academy of Ancient Music** performs JS Bach's intellectual, technical and emotional tour de force, *The Musical Offering BWV1079*, written for King Frederick the Great of Prussia ([3 Feb](#)).
- Britten Sinfonia brings a Delius rarity to Milton Court, recreating the composer's colourful incidental music for James Elroy Flecker's hit play *Hassan*. Posthumously staged in the West End in 1923, both play – and music – subsequently faded from view. Delius's music is coupled with a new commission from Australian/Egyptian oud player and composer **Joseph Tawadros** and unusually, Vivaldi arranged for oud and strings. ([10 Feb](#)).
- Piano recital: Chopin piano competition winner **Seong-Jin Cho** plays a programme of Baroque dance music and the Romantic composers inspired by it, including works by Handel, Brahms, Schumann and Sofia Gubaidulina ([13 Feb](#))
- Barbican Artist Spotlight showcases the convention-breaking Moldovan violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja**. As well as a masterclass at Guildhall School of Music & Drama ([15 Feb](#)) and a recital, with pianist **Joonas Ahonen** ([17 Feb](#)), she joins the LSO for a performance of Ligeti's complex *Violin Concerto* ([16 Feb](#))
- ECHO Rising Stars: German percussionist **Vanessa Porter** makes her London debut with a wide-ranging, high-octane journey through the contemporary percussion repertoire ([16 Feb](#))
- Soprano **Nadine Benjamin** is joined by **Michael Harper** (narrator) and **Elizabeth de Brito** (co-curator) on an uplifting journey through rarely heard historical and contemporary songs from America, Britain, the Caribbean and Europe, celebrating the richness and joy of black and mixed race stories and experiences ([21 Feb](#))
- **The English Concert** directed by **Harry Bicket** reconstructs Handel's historic 1749 benefit concert for London's Foundling Hospital, the UK's first children's charity, of which Handel and Hogarth were supporters ([28 Feb](#)).

MARCH

- ECHO Rising Star **Cristina Gómez Godoy** brings the oboe into the spotlight, showing off its unique timbre in a wide-ranging programme, including a new ECHO commission by **Charlotte Bray**. ([10 Mar](#))
- Triangles made from rebar (steel rods used in concrete construction), weather-driven bells and harps, and pianos prepared with single use plastic waste take root amongst the 1,500 species of plants in the Barbican Conservatory in a new performance installation by **Nonclassical** reflecting on the climate crisis ([12 Mar](#)).
- Pianist **Evgeny Kissin** gives a recital of music by Bach, Debussy, Mozart and Rachmaninov ([15 Mar](#))
- **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla** conducts **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** in her first London concert as Principal Guest Conductor, including **Vilde Frang** in Elgar's *Violin Concerto* ([16 Mar](#))
- Tenor **Stuart Skelton** joins **BBC SO** as the eponymous hero in Iain Bell's retelling of the Old English epic, *Beowulf* (world premiere - ([17 Mar](#)).
- LSO features in the first ever screening with a live orchestra of Arthur Bliss's score to HG Wells/Alexander Korda's 1936 science fiction film *Things to Come*. ([26 Mar](#)).
- **Arcangelo** performs Handel's *Theodora*, with **Louise Alder** in the title role ([29 Mar](#)).
- **Ian McEwan**, best-selling author of *Atonement*, *On Chesil Beach* and *Enduring Love*, joins **BBC Symphony Orchestra** in a one-off event weaving readings from his own work with music that resonates with his words. ([31 Mar](#)).

APRIL

- ECHO Rising Stars: the **Aris Quartett** explores the emotional, dramatic and intellectual range of the string quartet in two masterpieces by Haydn and Mendelssohn and a new work that probes the neurology of music by **Misato Mochizuki** ([7 Apr](#)).
- As part of a Spring 23 Barbican Artist spotlight, violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** explores the image of women - from saints to sinners - across 900 years of music, in *Maria Mater Meretrix*, a musical mosaic devised with singer **Anna Prohaska**. ([16 Apr](#)).
- **Gustavo Dudamel** conducts his first UK concert as Music Director of **L'Orchestre de l'Opéra national de Paris** who make their UK debut with music by Messiaen, Haydn, Ravel and Richard Strauss. ([22 Apr](#)).

MAY

- In poet **Carol Ann Duffy**'s 1999 poetry collection, *The World's Wife*, the women behind the great men of history and legend set the record straight. Composer **Tom Green**'s opera of the same name, with libretto by Duffy, references neglected work by female composers. **The Ragazze Quartet** is joined by transgender opera singer, baritone **Lucia Lucas** for this staged performance. ([2 May, with livestream](#)).
- UK premieres of two works by **Kaija Saariaho** - *Saarikoski Songs*, with soprano **Anu Komsu**, and *Reconnaissance*, with the BBC Singers - as part of BBC Symphony Orchestra's Total Immersion day exploring the music of the Finnish composer, led by her compatriot, BBC SO Chief Conductor **Sakari Oramo**. ([Note: NEW DATE: 7 May](#)).
- **Laurence Cummings** directs **Academy of Ancient Music** [AAM] and soloists including **Sophie Juncker** and **Anna Dennis** in Handel's allegorical exploration of mortality: *The Triumph of Time and Disillusionment* ([11 May](#)).
- Piano recital: **Hélène Grimaud** plays three transcendental and powerful solo piano masterpieces: JS Bach/Ferruccio Busoni's *Chaconne*, Beethoven's *Piano Sonata No 30* and Robert Schumann's *Kreisleriana* ([18 May](#))

- **BBC Singers** perform Rachmaninov's *Vespers* interwoven with music from different African traditions around the theme of evening and dusk with cellist **Abel Selaocoe** ([19 May](#)).
- In the month of Charles III's coronation, **Britten Sinfonia** revisits notable British music premieres from 1953, the year of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, including works by Maconchy, Walton and Tippett, alongside a new work by Joseph Phibbs ([24 May](#)).
- The LSO and pianist **Yuja Wang** give the UK premiere of Magnus Lindberg's *Piano Concerto No. 3*. ([25 May](#))

JUNE

- **Sir Simon Rattle** in his final concerts as Music Director of the London Symphony Orchestra before assuming the role of Conductor Emeritus, conducts some of his personal favourites and the world premiere of a new work by 96-year-old composer **Betsy Jolas**. ([14 & 15 June](#)).
- Piano recital: **Daniil Trifonov** in a programme of musical fantasies, including works by Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Ravel, Schumann and Scriabin ([16 June](#))
- French orchestra, **Les Siècles**, makes its Barbican debut conducted by **François-Xavier Roth** in a programme of evocative 19th & 20th century French music ([20 June](#)).
- In the 70th anniversary year of the first documented ascent of Everest, **BBC Symphony Orchestra** [BBC SO] gives the UK premiere of Joby Talbot's opera *EVEREST* based on the 1996 mountaineering disaster in which eight climbers died when a sudden storm engulfed the summit of Mount Everest ([23 June](#)).
- **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** directs New York's **The Met Orchestra** in its first UK appearance in over 20 years, with a stellar trio of soloists - **Joyce DiDonato**, **Renée Fleming** and **Russell Thomas** - in evocative music with a Shakespearean flavour ([29 Jun](#)).

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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