

For immediate release: Tue 25 March 2025

barbican

Summer 2025 at the Barbican

Barbican presents ***Frequencies: the sounds that shape us***, a season taking you beyond music, exploring the power of sound and sonic experience to shape how we move, think, feel and to inspire change

22 May – 31 August

Launching **Barbican's Summer 2025** programme, ***Frequencies*** is a curated season about the power of sound featuring a packed programme of film screenings, concerts, events, workshops and talks. The season kicks off in May and explores how the power of sound moves more than just the body, and how it continues to inspire generations to rebel and create change.

Highlights within ***Frequencies*** include ***Feel the Sound***, a bold new multi-sensory exhibition experience that examines our relationship to sound; the world premiere of a new version of the award-winning Virtual Reality experience ***In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats***; live music events and concerts, a film series, and ***Rebel Radio***, a month-long programme of broadcasts, talks, workshops, club experience and screenings celebrating London's Pirate Radio story and exploring radio as a space for community, creativity, and subversion.

Frequencies programme

- ***Feel the Sound***, 22 May – 31 Aug
- ***In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats***, 22 May – 3 Aug
- ***Rebel Radio***, throughout June:
 - A month-long residency by **Reprezent Radio**, broadcasting live (FM & online) from the Barbican
 - Weekly co-curated communal listening events **Sunday Selecta**
 - **Interactive Listening Posts** in the Barbican foyer
 - An exclusive **ClubStage** club night
 - 2x day podcast masterclass **Make Yourself Heard**
 - Talks programme **Them Ones Presents**, curated by Tobi Kyeremateng offering opportunities to hear from pioneers of pirate radio and contemporary thinkers on the legacy of the rebel community
 - **Gaps in the Dial: a 6-episode podcast** about the history of Pirate and Community Radio
 - A series of archive **films** exploring the rebellious world of pirate and community stations

- **Live music events and concerts including**
 - **Actress x Suzanne Ciani present Concrète Waves**, Fri 30 May
 - **Moin**, Sat 31 May
 - **Rampage: Carnival Classics 2**, Fri 20 Jun
 - **Ligeti Quartet: Nuc**, Sat 21 Jun
 - **Jeff Mills + London Symphony Orchestra: Blue Potential**, Sat 28 Jun
- **Cinema screenings including**
 - **God Bless the Child. A Performance Lecture by Christopher Harris**, 27 May
 - **Good Vibrations: The Sound of Neurodivergence**: Eden + introduction by curator Lillian Crawford, Wed 2 Jul
 - **Good Vibrations: The Sound of Neurodivergence**: Shorts programme + ScreenTalk, Tue 8 Jul
 - Movies with impressive soundtracks and films that embrace remarkable sound and soundscapes as part of Barbican's wider **Outdoor Cinema** programme in August (on sale 7 May)
- **Talks & events (on sale April)**
 - **Listening as Activism**, a panel of artists and thinkers exploring sound and attention as a tool for social change
 - A special event on **sonic resistance and electronic music** with musician Paul Purgas
 - **Dancefloor Solidarity**, a talk and workshop organised with Nicholas Hadfield (Wavefield)

Feel the Sound

At the centre of Frequencies is **Feel The Sound**, Barbican's new multi-sensory immersive exhibition where audiences use their bodies as listening devices to explore new ways to experience sound. Through a series of installations including new commissions and UK premieres, *Feel the Sound* takes place in spaces across the Barbican Centre, from the entrance on Silk Street, in The Curve, the public foyers, to outdoors on the Centre's Lakeside Terrace. For the first time, the Centre's underground Car Parks will also be part of the exhibition experience.

In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats

The Frequencies programme brings the world premiere of a new version of the award-winning Virtual Reality experience **In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats**. This new iteration of Darren Emerson & East City Films's nostalgic immersive adventure of finding an Acid House rave in 1989 pushes the technology even further to create a truly collective experience, where friends share the same virtual space and interact together on a euphoric journey into the heart of a music revolution.

Rebel Radio

Taking place in the Barbican throughout June, **Rebel Radio** explores the role of radio as a space for community, creativity, and resistance, highlighting the radical spirit of pirate broadcasting and its lasting impact. Rebel Radio features a rich and varied broadcast programme including a month-long residency by **Reprezent Radio**, who will be broadcasting themed shows live from the Barbican foyer; a 6-episode Podcast by DJ and radio presenter Tayo Popoola will explore how today's creators are reinventing radio for the digital age; **Sunday Selecta**, celebrating the request radio era, with audiences invited to select and introduce songs, new and old, mixed by a live DJ on Barbican's freestage

every Sunday. Throughout the month, visitors can also enjoy **Listening Posts** in the Barbican foyers, to access recordings of the radio broadcasts and podcasts, as well as a place to record memories of their own time spent interacting with pirate radio.

ClubStage, returning to Barbican's underground foyers, will see major DJs reviving their original sets from back in the day, paired with contemporary DJs for one exclusive night in June. Alongside a **Talks Series** exploring the cultural and social seeds sown by pirate radio into the present day; radio professionals will run a 2-day **Podcast Masterclass** taking twelve participants through the process of making a short-form podcast or radio show, with sessions on editing and mixing audio, the art of the interview, and more. A **Cinema series** exploring the rebellious world of pirate and community stations completes the programme. **Rebel Radio programme will go on sale in April.**

Concert Series

Frequencies will feature a series of concerts bringing audiences on sonic adventures through immersive sound experiences, exploring dance, rave and Carnival culture. Concerts include **Concrète Waves**, a groundbreaking live music collaboration between two titans of avant-garde electronic music **Actress x Suzanne Ciani**; and **Moin**, who'll be making their Barbican debut with music from their new album *You Never End*, as well as guest features and classics from their back catalogue. In June, Barbican hosts **Rampage: Carnival Classics 2**, a special night that sees the **Rampage Sound System** return, this time joined by the 30-piece **Nu Civilisation Orchestra** to reimagine Carnival classics and celebrate over three decades of iconic tracks that define the sounds of Notting Hill Carnival.

Also in June, the **Ligeti Quartet** will perform tracks from their 2023 album *Nuc*, fusing acoustic and electronic music for string quartet by Mercury-nominated composer Anna Meredith alongside visual projections; and a much-awaited return by **Jeff Mills** with the Barbican's Resident Orchestra, the **London Symphony Orchestra** for a very special evening marking the 20th anniversary of *Blue Potential*, Mill's groundbreaking 2005 project and 2006 album combining electronic and symphonic music.

Film Series

In **God Bless the Child. A Performance Lecture by Christopher Harris**, the filmmaker presents a performance around his work in progress film, *God Bless the Child*. Delving into themes of memory, history, and the materiality of film itself, the film challenges traditional storytelling with striking soundscapes and layered sonic textures. Barbican Emerging Film Curator Alumna Lillian Crawford curates two **Good Vibrations** events, exploring neurodivergent responses to sound and music within a cinema space: **The Sound of Neurodivergence (shorts programme) + ScreenTalk**, and *Mia Hansen-Løve's* electronic music drama **Eden**, with an introduction from the curator herself.

Completing the film programme, Barbican's iconic **Outdoor Cinema** this year brings a selection of movies with impressive soundtracks and films that embrace remarkable sound and soundscapes.

Devyani Saltzman, Director of Arts & Participation at the Barbican, said: "We're delighted to launch the Barbican's Summer 2025 programme with a series exploring the power of sonic experience. From creating joyful and communal moments to being an inspiration and an instrument for activism, from music to white noise, to frequencies, rhythms and vibration, sonic experience is an intrinsic part of our lives, and this season explores and celebrates it across art forms and disciplines."

Frequencies is part of **Barbican's Summer 2025**, a season packed with unmissable events in Theatre, Music, Cinema, Visual Arts and more, including **Encounters: Giacometti x Huma Bhabha**; **Fiddler on the Roof** and **Good Night, Oscar** in the Barbican Theatre; Classical concerts **Khatia Buniatishvili & Friends** and **CBSO Orchestral Qawwali with Abi Sampa**; as well as **Herbie Hancock** celebrating his 85th birthday; a film season and two special **Classical Music** concerts celebrating **PRIDE** in June; and Barbican's **Outdoor Cinema** with its full season of films under the stars.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Follow this link for the **Spring/Summer 2025 Classical Music programme press release**

Follow this link for the **THEATRE & DANCE 2025 spring season press release**

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Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room

LISTINGS

Feel the Sound

22 May–31 Aug 2025

Barbican Centre

@barbicancentre

Co-produced by **MoN Takanawa: The Museum of Narratives**, Takanawa Gateway City, Tokyo, Japan.

Tickets from £20

On sale 2 April Members, 3 April General Public

Read full press release [here](#)

Barbican's new multi-sensory immersive exhibition, ***Feel The Sound*** invites audiences to use their bodies as listening devices to explore new ways to experience sound. Through a series of installations including new commissions and UK premieres, *Feel the Sound* takes place in spaces across the Barbican Centre, from the entrance on Silk Street, in The Curve, the public

foyers, to outdoors on the Centre's Lakeside Terrace. For the first time, the Centre's underground Car Parks will also be part of the exhibition experience.

In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats

22 May-3 Aug 2025

The Pit

Tickets from £25

On sale 2 April Members, 3 April General Public

Step into the heart of the Acid House Movement with *In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats*, an internationally acclaimed, award-winning interactive VR adventure. Created by immersive artist Darren Emerson and produced by East City Films, this groundbreaking experience takes audiences on a multi-sensory journey back to 1989, immersing them in the euphoric rave scene that revolutionised music and society. With the world premiere of its newest version at the Barbican, for the first time groups of up to four people will be able to join in the experience together and share the same virtual space.

In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats is created by Darren Emerson and produced by East City Films, with the original version funded by the BFI awarding National Lottery funding and Coventry City of Culture Trust. The tour is jointly supported by Arts Council England and BFI National Lottery Audience Projects Fund. East City Films also received funding from Innovate UK, which is all about helping innovative ideas to flourish.

Rebel Radio

Rebel Radio explores and celebrates London's Pirate radio story. Since the 1970s to the present, these unique and precarious institutions have broadened London's cultural bandwidth and have long been the spaces where new subcultures and genres emerge, communities of interest are served, and the next generation of artists and broadcasters are formed.

Rebel Radio explores Britain's relationship to dance music, community and counterculture through podcasts, a club night, cinema screenings, talks, workshops, and a radio residency broadcasting live from the Barbican's foyers. *Rebel Radio* celebrates the breadth and range of pirate radio cultural tribes, challenging what is considered art in establishment art institutions. Tickets will go on sale in April, alongside full programme information.

CONCERTS

Actress x Suzanne Ciani present *Concrète Waves*

Friday 30 May 2025, 7.30pm

Barbican Hall

Tickets from £20 plus booking fee

Today (21 Nov) the Barbican announces ***Concrète Waves***, a new and groundbreaking live music collaboration between two titans of avant-garde electronic music, **Actress** and **Suzanne Ciani**.

Where Actress and Ciani's work undoubtedly entwines is through total singularity in their respective sounds. Across their careers, each have displayed an unrelenting desire to create unique musical environments and forms around their projects. At the Barbican in 2025, this entwining results in a brand-new boundary-pushing performance that will creatively challenge the dense conceptual framework of two of the most distinctive and inventive talents in electronic music – presented in the Barbican Hall in quadrophonic sound.

By harnessing the power of their similarities and differences, Actress and Ciani will come together in a never seen before collaboration, juxtaposing the natural and industrial worlds and creating a space for sonic play. Bringing together elements of both artists' work, this new collaboration will be underpinned by the unconventional rhythmic framework of Actress' industrial practice 'R&B' Concrète via Ciani's natural expressions on the Buchla.

Produced by the Barbican. Co-commissioned by the Barbican and Sònar.

[Find out more](#)

Moin

+ Honour, + Voice Actor

Saturday 31 May 2025, 7.30pm

Barbican Hall

Tickets from £22.50 plus booking fee

Moin are a three-piece based in London featuring **Tom Halstead** and **Joe Andrews** of the electronic outfit Raime and percussionist visionary **Valentina Magaletti**.

Their music re-contextualises a range of guitar-based genres from grunge, shoegaze and post-rock in an enigmatic re-configuring of the traditional band, using both conventional and unique compositional techniques alongside a visceral immediacy which translates in full effect during their live performances.

Moin walk the line between what's reassuringly familiar and what's unsettling and inquisitive. Their debut headline show for the Barbican will include music from their new album *You Never End* (AD 93, 2024), guest features and a range of classics from their back catalogue.

Support for the performances comes from producer **Honour**, whose record *Àláfíà* (PAN, 2023) blends hip-hop, R&B, jazz and gospel music to atemporal soundscapes and compositions creating a work that marinates in its own knotty contradictions, and ambient outfit **Voice Actor** (a.k.a. musical artist **Noa Kurzweil**) following the release of her latest record *Lust (I)* (Stroom, 2025), a collaboration with producer Squu, that Pitchfork calls "music of a primitive, delirious, and delightfully exhausted state."

Produced by the Barbican

[Find out more](#)

RAMPAGE: Carnival Classics 2

Friday 20 June 2025, 8pm

Barbican Hall

Tickets from £45 plus booking fee

The legendary **Rampage Sound System** returns to the Barbican, following their roof-raising debut in 2023. In summer 2025, the UK's most renowned sound system, joins forces with **Nu Civilisation Orchestra** to celebrate Carnival culture with reimagined tracks from over thirty years at Notting Hill Carnival - plus a host of special guests.

With reworkings of classic Carnival favourites from Europe's biggest street festival, Rampage and the 30-piece ensemble of Nu Civilisation Orchestra will take to the Barbican

Hall to bring to life three decades of iconic songs that regular visitors to Carnival will have undoubtedly danced to - from Soca and Dancehall to Jungle and UK Garage.

Fresh from collaborating with the likes of Egypt, Donaeo, Maxwell D, More Fire Crew, Omar, Terri Walker, Damage, Janet Kay & Carroll Thompson, and Mr Vegas in 2023, Rampage: Carnival Classics 2 promises a similarly iconic roster of special guests this time around, to be announced at a later date.

Through the music, the event will also tell the story of how Carnival has evolved from its roots in the traditional sounds of the Caribbean, how those influences have been absorbed by the children of the Windrush generation, through to what we know today as the full breadth of British Black Music.

To view images of Rampage's 2023 evening at the Barbican, [click here](#).

Produced by the Barbican

[Find out more](#)

Ligeti Quartet: Nuc

Saturday 21 June 2025, 8.30pm

Cinema 1

Tickets from £22.50 plus booking fee

Joyful, occasionally furious, never too serious, energetic and restful, *Nuc* is a collection of tracks composed by Anna Meredith and arranged by the **Ligeti Quartet's** viola player **Richard Jones** and which was named by The Guardian as a Top Ten Contemporary Album of 2023. The quartet will be joined by trumpeter **Lucy Humphris** in the Barbican Cinema for this audiovisual performance.

Produced by the Barbican

[Find out more](#)

Jeff Mills + London Symphony Orchestra: Blue Potential

Saturday 28 June 2025, 8pm

Barbican Hall

Tickets from £37.50

Electronic music pioneer **Jeff Mills** returns to the Barbican, joining forces with the Barbican's Resident Orchestra, the **London Symphony Orchestra**. In a very special evening, Mills and the LSO come together to mark the 20th anniversary of ***Blue Potential***, combining symphonic grandeur with iconic beats in a live real-time performance of some of Mills' classic tracks, conducted by **Christophe Mangou**.

Mills was the first DJ to collaborate on, perform, and capture concerts with classical orchestras, and he here revisits his *Blue Potential* project two decades on. In the title, *Blue* means the water on planet Earth and its mirror-like reflection of the stars and other worlds above. *Potential* refers to the probable future of mankind and a calculation that answers to questions we've yet to ask lie out into the unknown. Thinking about a concept many years before, this first classical encounter with the Montpellier Philharmonic Orchestra took place 20 years ago at the magical Pont De Gard in Southern France. That night, over 10,000 people were in attendance to watch what we now realize as one of Electronic Music's

greatest leaps forward. It was a jump that would ignite the long conversation between Electronic and Classical Music that continues in the decades afterwards.

Blue Potential was originally performed with the Montpelier Philharmonic Orchestra in 2005 and released as a live album in 2006 - a groundbreaking moment combining electronic and symphonic music. This time Mills teams up with the 121-year-old London Symphony Orchestra to mark the anniversary. The performance will intertwine Mills' trademark 909 snare and cymbal backbone with the orchestral might of the LSO in a live fusion of beat making and orchestral instrumentation.

From shaping Detroit's early techno scene to redefining electronic music's intersection with art, film, and orchestration, Jeff Mills continues to push creative boundaries. A true innovator, he has performed worldwide, collaborating with jazz legends, orchestras, and prestigious art institutions. Mills' performances are immersive and expansive, blending hypnotic beats, improvisation, and cinematic storytelling.

Produced by the Barbican

[Find out more](#)

CINEMA

God Bless the Child (15)

A multi-media presentation and discussion with Conversation between Christopher Harris and Kodwo Eshun

Work in Progress, US, dir Chris Harris, performance event length 140mins

Tuesday 27 May 2025, 6:30pm

Cinema 2

God Bless the Child is a multi-media event showcasing acclaimed artist and filmmaker Christopher Harris's latest work. This special evening, taking place in person and online, will offer a rare insight into Harris's first autobiographical project, blending personal history, archival materials, and newly shot 16mm footage.

Drawing from his own experiences as a foster child, Harris weaves together photographs, official records, and other elements from his personal archive with recent film material from Senegal. Through this lens, *God Bless the Child* examines the structures of social welfare and child services in relation to Black childhood in the US, placing them within the wider historical context of the transatlantic slave trade and the French Catholic Church's role in colonisation across West Africa and the Americas. His hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, and Saint-Louis, Senegal, emerge as parallel spaces shaped by shared histories of colonialism and displacement.

The presentation will include a discussion of the archival materials that will ultimately form the foundation of Harris's forthcoming experimental essay film. These materials range from records from the Archdiocese of St. Louis to photographs of his birth and foster mothers, as well as a newspaper profile listing him as a child available for adoption. The film will further incorporate footage yet to be shot in St. Louis and Paris.

The event will conclude with an open conversation and audience Q&A, offering a chance to engage directly with Harris and the themes of his work.

This event has been developed in collaboration with Valentine Umansky and the Tate Modern. Special thanks to Christopher Harris and Kodwo Eshun.

Good Vibrations - The Sound of Neurodivergence: Eden (cert 15)
introduced by curator and co-founder of Stims Collective, Lillian Crawford.
France, 2014, dir Mia Hansen-Løve, 131 min, French with English subtitles
Wednesday 2 July 2025, 6.10pm
Cinema 3

An immersive odyssey of a DJ's decline and fall set against the backdrop of the French House scene of the Nineties from director Mia Hansen-Løve.

Paul, played by Félix de Givry, wants nothing more than to become a successful DJ at the height of rave culture in 1990s France. Inspired by her brother Sven's musical life and career, Mia Hansen-Løve recreates the spirit and atmosphere of a formative era through a pulsating soundtrack including music by Daft Punk. It is a story of trying to make the big time, and never quite making it.

The film pushes the boundaries of what is expected of 'relaxed screenings', considering the positive sensations and emotions neurodivergent audiences experience from sound and music.

Eden features an international cast, including Félix de Givry, Pauline Etienne, Greta Gerwig, and Brady Corbet.

Good Vibrations - The Sound of Neurodivergence: Shorts followed by ScreenTalk with curator Lillian Crawford and a panel of filmmakers (cert tbc)
Tuesday 8 July 2025, 6.30pm
Cinema 3

From silence to dissonance, neurodivergent relationships to sound are explored in this diverse shorts programme featuring animated and experimental depictions of hypersensitivity.

Neurodivergent responses to sound and music vary greatly, often producing powerful images and feelings both positive and negative. This programme of short films goes on a journey through worlds of silence and noise, mirroring radical and dynamic soundscape techniques with powerful imagery crafted through experimental techniques and vivid animation. It presents a sonic journey through neurodiverse experience.

The screening will be followed by a ScreenTalk with curator and co-founder of Stims Collective, Lillian Crawford, with a panel of filmmakers exploring the question of hypersensitivity and differing relationships to sound. Screened in a relaxed screening context, the panel asks if the volume should be turned down or up.

The event will include a screening of *Music & Clowns* directed by Alex Widdowson. Full film programme to be announced.

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional

artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the London Symphony Orchestra, and a London base of the Royal Shakespeare Company. We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the Academy of Ancient Music, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Boy Blue, Darbar, Doc'n Roll Film Festival, Drum Works, EFG London Jazz Festival, London Palestine Film Festival, Serious, and Trafalgar Theatre Productions.

For more information, visit our website or connect with us on Instagram | Facebook | YouTube | Spotify | LinkedIn