SOUTHBANK CENTRE ANNOUNCES SPRING 2017 GIGS SEASON


Today Southbank Centre announces the Spring 2017 gigs season, featuring a diverse line-up of shows across the site spanning rock, afrobeat, heavy metal, folk, electronic and rap. Pioneers of ambient house The Orb present a five-hour takeover of the Royal Festival Hall, including a free film screening of Patrick Buchanan’s acclaimed documentary Lunar Orbit that tells the story behind the sound. Newcastle-based rockers Maximo Park bring their energetic live show to the Royal Festival Hall and afrobeat star Fuse ODG performs a one-off show as part of Africa Utopia festival. Visitors can also catch free music every Friday lunchtime and evening in the Clore Ballroom at the regular Friday Lunch and Friday Tonic series.

Highlights include:

- Multi-platinum selling afrobeat star Fuse ODG performs in the Royal Festival Hall as part of Africa Utopia festival (15 July)

- Maximo Park play hits from their latest album Risk to Exist (12 May)

- The Nu Civilisation Orchestra, Eska, Lisa Hannigan, and Tunisian singer Emel Mathlouthi, known for her anthemic Arab Spring protest songs, presenting Joni Mitchell’s acclaimed album Héjira, in an evening celebrating women’s experiences of migration on International Women’s Day (8 March)

- Acoustic singer-songwriter Jack Savoretti performing music from his new album Sleep No More (29 March)

- Ambient house pioneers The Orb presenting a special evening of music and film, including a performance of COW (Chill Out World) in entirety alongside special tracks from UltraWorld, with guest stars Dee Deeon, DJ Dadaist, DJ Food, Gaudi, King Michael, Metamono, Pete W. Rev Eno, Roney FM, Rev Eno and Youth (21 April)

- The Icelandic 16-piece, all female rap collective Daughters of Reykjavik perform as part of WOW - Women of the World festival and Nordic Matters (11 March)
• Legendary rock group **Procul Harum** is joined by a full orchestra and the **English Chamber Choir** in a unique live performance (3 March)

• Two-time Emmy Award-winner **Megan Mullally** (star of *Will and Grace*) bringing her new band to the Royal Festival Hall (20 April)

• Classically-trained Finnish quartet **Apocalyptica** perform songs from their epic debut album *Plays Metallica by Four Cellos* as part of *Nordic Matters* (1 March)

• Greek folk legend **Eleftheria Arvanita** brings her blend of traditional and contemporary music to the Royal Festival Hall in this one-off performance (30 May)

• As recently announced, rapper, producer, director and visual artist **M.I.A.** will curate Southbank Centre’s 24th *Meltdown* festival, details on the line-up to be released soon (9-18 June 2017)

#ENDS#

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**FULL LISTINGS BELOW**

**Apocalyptica plays ‘Metallica By Four Cellos’**
*Wednesday 1 March, Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, £18.50 - £50*

Heavy metal played on cellos by Finnish quartet Apocalyptica. The classically trained cellists have sold over four million albums, and have collaborated with musicians from bands such as Slipknot, Rammstein and Bush, covered artists including Pantera, Faith No More and David Bowie, performed Wagner anniversary concerts alongside a full orchestra and played Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony for a Greenpeace campaign. At this concert they return to their roots, performing the Metallica covers that launched their career.

**Kieran Towers & Charlotte Carrivick - Friday Lunch**
*Friday 3 March, 1pm, Central Bar Foyer, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall, free*

Appalachian folk music with award-winning duo Kieran Towers & Charlotte Carrivick. Multi-instrumentalists Kieran and Charlotte tune-up and expand on the tradition of fiddle and banjo duets, with an exciting fusion of old time and contemporary string band styles.

**Asya Satti - Friday Tonic**
*Friday 3 March, 1pm, Central Bar Foyer, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall, free*

Born in Stockholm to Sudanese parents, Asya's influences range from Umm Kulthum to Aretha Franklin. Her style takes these inspirations in, adding a modern touch courtesy of her African and Middle Eastern upbringing. Alternating between languages, Asya's soaring vocals give an almost hypnotic feel to her rhythmic tunes that express themes about women who are strong and confident, yet vulnerable and honest.

**Hejira - part of WOW - Women of the World**
*Wednesday 8 March, 7:30pm, Royal Festival Hall, £20, £25, £30*

The Nu Civilisation Orchestra, Mercury Prize nominees Eska and Lisa Hannigan, and Tunisian singer Emel Mathlouthi, known for her anthemic Arab Spring protest songs, present Joni Mitchell’s album *Héjira* in an evening celebrating women’s experiences of migration on International Women’s Day.
Friday Lunch with Nilüfer Yanya - part of WOW - Women of the World  
Friday 10 March, 1pm, Riverside Café at Royal Festival Hall, Free  
Nilüfer Yanya performs soulful music from her new EP Small Crimes

Daughters of Reykjavik - part of WOW - Women of the World  
Saturday 11 March, 9.30pm - 10pm, Clore Ballroom at the Royal Festival Hall, Free  
See the Icelandic 16-piece, all female rap group who are making waves internationally. Reykjavikurdætur from downtown Reykjavik perform in solos, duos, trios and sometimes all 16 together, rapping in both Icelandic and English about everything from sexual violence to feminism and sexual freedom. Followed by a special collaboration with Debris Stevenson in Gyal in Da Corner.

Gyal in da Corner - part of WOW - Women of the World  
Saturday 11 March, 10pm - 12am, Clore Ballroom, Royal Festival Hall, Free  
Debris Stevenson remembers how the genre grime gave her permission to redefine success against the odds, 13 years after Dizzee Rascal’s genre-defining album, Boy in da Corner, and with that in mind, has curated this WOW special event, featuring an international all female line up of MCs, DJs, producers and poets. For ages 16+

The African Heroes and Nyakaza Ensemble - part of WOW - Women of the World  
Sunday 12 March, 4pm - 4.30pm, Level 5 Bar at Royal Festival Hall, Free  
Nyakaza perform their unmistakably South African choral sound, in a show that’s all about movement and sound. Their dance comprises Zulu, Ndebele and Sotho traditional sequences.

Friday Tonic: Sura Susso - Friday Tonic  
Friday 24 March, 5:30pm, Central Bar, Royal Festival Hall, free  
Kora player, percussionist and singer-songwriter Sura Susso performs this Friday Tonic. Originally from the Gambia, Surahata ‘Sura’ Susso was born into a griot family, a tradition that originates from West Africa and refers to cultural figures that carry knowledge and the regional identity of their communities through song, music and poetry. Sura is the son of Mamudou Susso, one of the finest living kora players, and Fatou Binta Cissokho, who was a gifted singer and percussionist.

Jack Savoretti  
Wednesday 29 March, 7:30pm, Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, £26 - £28.50  
Acoustic singer-songwriter Jack Savoretti performs music from his new album Sleep No More. Having toured worldwide and earned a space in the Top 10 charts for his last album, Written in Scars, Jack returns with new music, with each song written, recorded and completed from scratch in a single day.

Megan Mullally and Stephanie Hunt  
Thursday 20 April, Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, £29.50 - £75  
Two-time Emmy Award-winner Megan Mullally brings her new band to town in her Royal Festival Hall debut. The star of Will & Grace returns to London for her first concert appearance in six years, with her partner in crime Stephanie Hunt and their band new band, Nancy & Beth. Although best known for playing the much loved role of Karen Walker in Will & Grace, Megan is an exceptionally experienced singer, having starred in Broadway productions of Grease, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying and the Mel Brooks musical, Young Frankenstein. Having made her West End debut in 2010 with her previous band, Supreme Music Program – with whom she also recorded three albums and played prestigious venues across America – Megan and new bandmate Stephanie are delighted to be bringing their humour and music to London. Their eponymous first album is released in Spring 2017.

An Ambient Evening with the Orb & friends  
Friday 21 April, 7:30pm, Royal Festival Hall, £25 - £30
The Orb, aka Alex Paterson and Thomas Fehlmann are joined by their friends: Dee Deeon, DJ Dadaist, DJ Food, Gaudi, King Michael, Metamono, Pete W. Rev Enó, Roney FM, and Youth. The duo play an ambient selection of tracks from their first album *UltraWorld*, with guest appearances from Youth and Gaudi, followed by album COW (Chill Out World) in its entirety with guests Youth. Visuals are created by Deep Visuals, The Orb's long-term video partner. Before the event, there is a screening of *Lunar Orbit*, Patrick Buchanan’s feature documentary that explores The Orb’s unique creative process and delves into the story behind the music. This takes place as Friday Tonic at 5.30pm, and is followed by a Q&A. Presented in association with One Inch Badge.

**Maximo Park**  
*Friday 12 May, 7:30pm, Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, £20 - £30*  
Maximo Park, the Newcastle-based five piece are back on the road and performing tracks for their extensive decade-spanning back catalogue in an energetic live show.

**M.I.A’s Meltdown**  
*9-18 June 2017, across Southbank Centre’s site*  
Rapper, producer, director and visual artist M.I.A curates Southbank Centre’s 24th Meltdown festival. Having been nominated for an Academy Award, two Grammy Awards and a Mercury Prize, M.I.A.’s accolade-studded musical career spans thirteen years, five albums and has defied stylistic genres, with influences ranging from Nu Rave and Dancehall to Hip Hop from around the world, with a list of collaborators that includes Diplo, Christina Aguilera, Madonna, Nicki Minaj, Kanye West, Jay Z and Lil Wayne. As well as a musician, M.I.A. is a director, visual artist, activist, photographer, fashion designer and model. Further details on the line-up will be announced the coming months.

**Philip Glass and Laurie Anderson: American Style**  
*Saturday 18 May, 8pm, Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, £40 - £75*  
Philip Glass and Laurie Anderson have collaborated through the years on various live and recording projects, and have recently come together to create a new evening. First performed in 2015, the evening has grown and developed into a unique piece of art. Trading songs and improvising, Philip Glass and Laurie Anderson approach the work with a loose and inventive feel, blending to create entirely new music. American Style is the empathetic resonance of two very different styles finding one musical language. It is a collaboration with the ghostly and majestic spoken performances and words of their dear friends Allen Ginsberg, Lou Reed and Leonard Cohen among others. Laurie Anderson’s visual work punctuates the evening.

**Eleftheria Arvanitaki - Beyond Borders**  
*Tuesday 30 May 2017, Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, 7:30pm, £24 - £56*  
Eleftheria Arvanitaki, the voice of contemporary Greece returns to London for a one-off performance. With a career spanning more than three decades, Arvanitaki is a tireless ambassador of the Greek music scene, blending traditional and contemporary influences from Greece and the Mediterranean basin to great acclaim.

**Fuse ODG**  
*Saturday 15 July, 8pm, Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, £20 £25*  
Fuse ODG is a multi-platinum selling independent recording artist based in London, but originally from Ghana. His music fuses pop, dance, and afrobeat. Fuse ODG is one of urban music's most thrilling new talents, and one of the brightest stars of the afrobeat sound taking over clubs, the airwaves, and the charts. Born Richard Abiona in south London, Fuse ODG's music encompasses a western-meets-Africa sound. His mission is ‘re-programming the world's mental image of Africa, it's people and it's diaspora’. Fuse ODG recently released the single, *Jinja*, in late 2016. He is best known for his 2013 single *Antenna* featuring Wyclef Jean which peaked at number 7 on the UK Singles Chart and went to number 1 in the iTunes World Chart as independently-released single.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**
**About Southbank Centre**
Southbank Centre is the UK’s largest arts centre, occupying a 21 acre site that sits in the midst of London’s most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as The Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Southbank Centre is carrying out vital restoration work on the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room to make the buildings fit for future generations to enjoy, more information can be found here: letthelightin.southbankcentre.co.uk

Nordic Matters

Nordic Matters is a year-long festival of Nordic art and culture in 2017 at London’s Southbank Centre, featuring music, dance, theatre, visual arts, participation, talks and debates, and gastronomy. Chosen from a number of international applicants, Southbank Centre is the sole recipient of a grant from The Nordic Council of Ministers for a new festival celebrating the very best of Nordic art and culture throughout 2017 – one of the biggest cultural-political partnerships of its kind. A particular emphasis will be placed on the idea of play fostering curiosity and creativity, for people of all ages but especially children and young people. Moving beyond popular perceptions of ‘Nordic Noir’ the programme is designed to embed Nordic culture and artists in Southbank Centre’s year-long artistic offer and offer a platform to some of the more ‘hidden voices’ from Greenland, Åland and the Faroe Islands. www.southbankcentre.co.uk/nordicmatters