

For immediate release: Wednesday 24 May 2023



## Barbican announces dates for Balimaya Project, Touching Bass and Matthew and the Atlas for 2023

**Balimaya Project: When The Dust Settles**  
**+ Asmâa Hamzaoui and Bnat Timbouktou**  
**Tues 17 October 2023, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm**  
**Tickets from £17.50 plus booking fee**

Mandé Jazz sensations **Balimaya Project**, led by percussionist **Yahael Camara Onono**, return for their debut Barbican Hall performance in October 2023. Their biggest performance yet will see an expanded 18-strong group of musicians joined by strings, dancers, and a host of special guests in this one-off evening.

Blending West African folkloric music, the sounds of Black London and the London jazz scene, Balimaya Project take to the stage in the Barbican's 1,943 seat concert hall to showcase their second album: *When The Dust Settles* (released on New Soil x Jazz re:refreshed, 21 July 2023). For this performance Balimaya Project will be joined by a string sextet, dancers, and special guests including Nigerian music artist **Obongjayar**, afro-swing, jazz and future soul artist **Afronaut Zu**, with more to be announced.

Camara Onono comments that "*In Mandé culture, the expression 'Raising the dust' refers to dancing a frenzied step at the start of an important ceremony or gathering. 'When the dust settles' is when the reason for the gathering in the first place can be addressed and the issues at hand fleshed out.*" The album's first single '[For Aziz ft. Afronaut Zu](#)' is out now.

Balimaya Project first performed at the Barbican at Milton Court Concert Hall in 2021, after which Yahael Camara Onono was appointed the Barbican's **Artist-in-Residence at Milton Court** for its 2022/23 season. Led by Yahael Camara Onono, Balimaya Project use the repertoire and instrumentation of the Mandé peoples of Senegal and Mali as the bridge to bring the folkloric West African music together with jazz and the sounds of Black London.

Supporting Balimaya Project for this special evening are **Asmâa Hamzaoui and Bnat Timbouktou**. Asmâa Hamzaoui is the foremost female ambassador of Gnawa music – a folkloric body of Moroccan religious songs and rhythms. With her group Bnat Timbouktou, she delivers a contagious brand of evangelistic desert blues.

Balimaya Project is:

**Yahael Camara Onono** - Musical Director, Composer, Band Leader, Lead Djembe, Atoumblan, Barra, Calebasse

**Adegun Crispin Robinson** - Congas, Bata

**Skanda Sabbagh** - Sangban set

**Aboubacar Konate** - Dounoun Superposé, Barra

**Mohamed Sangare** - Kenkeni Set

**Triston Dubison** - Drums

**Michael Olayinka** - Talking Drums

**Jordan Ibronke** – Talking Drums

**Elijah Ibronke** – Talking Drums

**Godwin Sonzi** - Electric Guitar/Acoustic Guitar  
**Gladness Sonzi** - Accompaniment Guitar  
**Jali Bakary Konteh** - Kora  
**Jonathan Monga Moko** - Bass, Double Bass  
**Jamal Wilson**- Keyboard, Synth, Grand Piano  
**Xhosa Cole** - Alto Sax, Flute  
**Jaz Lee** - Tenor Sax  
**Elias Jordan Atkinson** - Trumpet/Flugelhorn  
**Nathaniel Cross** – Trombone

Balimaya Project will be joined by a string ensemble and dancers:

**Evie Coplan** – cello  
**Elliot Bailey** – cello  
**Jess Meakin** – violin  
**Rebekah Reid** – violin  
**Nicola Hicks** – viola  
**Georgia Russell** – viola  
**Aida Diop** - dancer  
**Salif Camara** - dancer  
**Oumy Mbaye** – dancer

Produced by the Barbican

On sale to Barbican patrons and members on Wed 24 May 2023

On general sale on Fri 26 May 2023

[Find out more.](#)

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**Touching Bass presents: anaiis**

**+ Astrønne**

**Saturday 9 September 2023, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm**

**Tickets from £20 plus booking fee**

In a new collaboration with the Barbican, South London-based musical movement **Touching Bass** presents two exciting contemporary singers, **anaiis** and **Astrønne**, who will bring their spellbinding blend of R&B, soul and folk to Milton Court Concert Hall.

Touching Bass is the club night, record label, staple NTS Radio show and curatorial/creative studio founded by Errol and Alex Rita. With their intentional, community-led approach, this collaboration reflects Touching Bass' ethos of creating rich and memorable live experiences that feel like home, whilst presenting some of their favourite artists - from the local community to international talents.

Headlining the night with her soul-baring storytelling, anaiis's music explores the complex and personal journey of self-healing in pursuit of collective healing. Taking to the stage at Milton Court for the first time, anaiis will perform work from her debut album *this is no longer a dream* (Dream Sequence Recordings, 2021). Released during the pandemic, the album explores themes of isolation and disillusionment, charting the journey from angst to self-affirmation and hope.

Support for the evening comes from Cameroonian, Paris-based artist Astrønne, whose songwriting aims to convey in song what cannot often be spoken with words – exploring authentic emotions, both painful and therapeutic.

*"We've witnessed some truly timeless gigs at the Barbican and its associated spaces over the past few years and it's always been a dream to curate our own special moments within one of our most-loved venues. When the Barbican approached us, we strongly felt that this opportunity should be used to platform some of our most talented friends as much as our bucket-list favourites."*

*It feels like a natural evolution of what we've been doing to date and we can't wait to bring the energy of our shows and club nights into this world-renowned space, making our people feel at home within it.*" – Errol and Alex Rita

Produced by the Barbican and Touching Bass

On sale to Barbican patrons and members on Wed 24 May 2023

On general sale on Fri 26 May 2023

[Find out more.](#)

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### **Matthew and the Atlas**

**Thursday 9 November 2023, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm**

**Tickets from £22.50 plus booking fee**

British indie-folk artist Matthew Hegarty, a.k.a. **Matthew and the Atlas**, performs new music from forthcoming album and makes his Barbican debut at Milton Court Concert Hall.

Matthew and the Atlas has traversed a range of musical territories, from classic acoustic folk, to dramatic synth-laden electronica, as well as urgent guitar-led alt-rock. The common thread throughout has been a songwriting style that marries a subtle melodic sensibility with lyrics full of natural imagery and dark emotional heft – all delivered with a striking and distinctive vocal. In the process, Hegarty has quietly built a major cult following in Europe and the US, and will now bring his forthcoming album *This Place We Live* (Autumn 2023, Communion Records) as well as material from his much-loved back-catalogue to London audiences at the Barbican later this year.

Produced by the Barbican in association with Communion

On sale to Barbican patrons and members on Wed 24 May 2023

On general sale on Fri 26 May 2023

[Find out more.](#)

## **BARBICAN PROMOTIONS COMING UP THIS YEAR**

- Rival Consoles ([Sat 27 May 2023, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- Baaba Maal ([Tue 30 May 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- Love in Exile with Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyar and Shahzad Ismaily ([Fri 2 June 2023, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- José González ([Fri 9 & Sat 10 Jun 2023, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Laurie Anderson: Let X = X ([Sunday 11 Jun 2023, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- Dillon (\*rescheduled date: Thurs [15 Jun 2023, LSO St. Luke's, 7.30pm](#))
- Hamza Namira ([Sat 17 Jun 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- Musics from Summerisle / The Wicker Man – featuring Magnet, Gazelle Twin & Alasdair Roberts ([Sat 24 Jun 2023, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Rampage: Carnival Classics ([Sat 1 July 2023, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- Hamed Sinno: Poems of Consumption ([Sat 8 Jul 2023, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis ([Sun 9 Jul 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- Kandace Springs + Artemis ([Tue 11 Jul 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- Branford Marsalis Quartet ([Wed 12 Jul 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- Balmorhea ([Friday 14 July 2023, 7.30pm, Milton Court Concert Hall](#))
- Abdullah Ibrahim Trio ([Sat 15 Jul 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- Lila Downs ([Sun 16 July 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- Herbie Hancock ([Fri 28 and Sat 29 July 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- Jeff Mills, Jean-Phi Dary, Prabhu Edouard: Tomorrow Comes The Harvest ([Fri 8 Sep 2023, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))

- Touching Bass presents: anaiis + Astrønne ([Saturday 9 September 2023, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- The Unthanks All-Dayer ([Sun 10 Sep 2023, Barbican Hall, 2pm + 8pm](#))
- Bonny Light Horseman + London Contemporary Orchestra ([Fri 15 Sep 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- John Grant sings the songs of Patsy Cline with Richard Hawley and Band ([Sun 24 Sep 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- The Horse - Matthew Herbert x London Contemporary Orchestra ([Sat 14 Oct 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- Balimaya Project: When The Dust Settles + Asmâa Hamzaoui and Bnat Timbouktou ([Tues 17 October 2023, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Qawwali Flamenco ([Sun 15 Oct 2023, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Kronos Quartet: Five Decades ([Sat 21 Oct 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- Matthew and the Atlas ([Thursday 9 November 2023, Milton Court Concert Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Charles Lloyd Ocean Trio – EFG London Jazz Festival ([Fri 17 Nov 2023, Barbican Hall, 7:30pm](#))
- This is The Kit ([Sat 25 Nov 2023, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))

## BARBICAN PROMOTIONS COMING UP IN 2024

- Michael Rother Plays NEU!, Harmonia & Solo Works ([Sat 3 Feb 2024, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))
- An Intimate Piano Performance from Lamb Chop ([Sat 1 Jun 2024, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Erland Cooper: Carve the Runes Then Be Content With Silence ([Sat 8 Jun 2024, Barbican Hall, 7.30pm](#))
- Nils Frahm – *Music For London* ([Thu 11 – Sun 14 July 2024, Barbican Hall, 8pm](#))

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Notes to Editors

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Press Information

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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](http://www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room)

**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 700 [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, and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are our International Associate Ensemble.

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