



Barbican Contemporary Music
Press release

Blaze

19th June – 29th July

Barbican announces full line-up of summer music festival Blaze

Blaze returns in June and July 2011 with a thrilling range of events in the Barbican and across East London. Major international artists, commissions and new works mark this third Blaze festival that takes place at the Barbican, Hackney Empire, Gillett Square, Wilton's Music Hall and Rich Mix.

Featuring new commissions and collaborations, a weekend celebration of Mediterranean music, a focus on that most musical of American cities, New Orleans, plus a plethora of world class brass groups, from gypsy brass to Indian marching bands to home-grown UK groups, all demonstrating the breadth of their joyous traditions.

Blaze also features a feast of incredible free music with visits to Gillett Square, Shoreditch Festival and Canary Wharf – plus of course the Barbican FreeStage which will be in action throughout the summer.

Blaze is presented by the Barbican and is part of the CREATE Festival. CREATE11 is the fourth annual summer festival that celebrates Europe's largest cultural quarter, the Olympic Host Boroughs where over 12,000 artists live and work. This year Blaze has joined forces with CREATE and forms its music strand. Blaze is supported by Arts Council England.

Sun 19 Jun 7pm, **XOYO**, Tickets £12 in advance

Eta Carinae / Fim de Feira / Rivotrill **New from Brazil: Sounds of Pernambuco**

Three beat combos direct from Brazil's musical heart, Pernambuco - **Eta Cariane** combine global beats, electronica, mangubeat and rock, perfectly bringing the feel of Recife, Pernambuco's capital, to London. **Fim de Feira** mix traditional north-eastern rhythms with the creativity of spoken word poetry and **Rivotrill** create a dense, original fusion of jazz and Brazilian beats.

Produced by Como No! and Jungle Drums

Sun 19 & Mon 20 Jun 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, £22.50/ 27.50/ 32.50 Returns only

Ryan Adams

Ryan Adams' eagerly awaited return to the stage after a 2-year retreat from the music industry. A rare chance to see an intimate acoustic performance from the former Whiskeytown and Cardinals front man.

Produced by SJM

Tue 21 Jun 8pm, **YOYO**. Tickets £15 in advance

cancelled

Sat 25 & Sun 26 Jun 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £10/ 30/ 35

Ludovico Einaudi: Taranta!

Over two wild nights **Ludovico Einaudi** is bringing his version of Taranta to the Barbican, joined by **La Notte della Taranta Orchestra**, and special guests **Mercan Dede**, **Ballake Sissoko** and **Savina Yannatou**, in an event that attracted over 100,000 people when it was performed in Italy last year.

'A thrilling and unpredictable challenge that opens up new paths for our music.' La Repubblica

Produced by Serious

Sat 25 & Sun 26 Jun 3pm-7pm **Barbican FreeStage** FREE

Exploring the music of the Mediterranean

Throughout the weekend we explore the rich musical traditions of the Mediterranean on the FreeStage. Saturday features performances from **Jaljala**, **The Stamp Collective** and **Jardares Por Fuera** and a ClubStage set from Turkish DJ **Mercan Dede**. On Sunday, take part in the **Ronda**, a traditional Italian group dance hosted by **Ludovico Einaudi**, and FreeStage performances from **El Andaluz** and **Cidgem Aslan**.

Produced by the Barbican

Sat 25 Jun 8pm, **Rich Mix Arts Centre**, Tickets £12

Shangaan Electro + Secousse DJ Set

South Africa's hyper-kinetic (180bpm) new street dance craze hits Europe this summer, featuring producer/mastermind and vocalist **Nozinja aka 'Dog'** and the clown-masked **Tshetsha Boys** and the fastest Shangaan dancers.

'It's fantastic, best thing I've heard for a long time. It's how music should be.' Karin Dreijer Andersson (The Knife)

Produced by the Barbican

Mon 27 Jun 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £12.50/ 15/ 20/ 25

Dennis Coffey

with Alice Russell, Mayer Hawthorne & more special guests tba

Detroit guitarist **Dennis Coffey** is best known as a member of the legendary Funk Brothers – the backing band who played on a truckload of hits for the Motown label. His solo instrumental hit *Scorpio* (1971) sold a million copies and became a seminal breakbeat, sampled by hip hop producers worldwide. Following the 2011 release of his acclaimed new self-titled studio album, Dennis is joined by a hand-picked array of special guests for a one-off night of R&B, funk and Northern soul anthems, old and new.

Produced by the Barbican in association with 2 For The Road Productions

Thu 30 Jun 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £15/ 20/ 25

Oumou Sangare + Anibal Velasquez y Los Locos del Swing

One of Africa's finest female vocalists returns to the Barbican with songs from her Grammy-nominated album *Seya*. A truly charismatic performer with a sublime voice, a tight funky band and irrepressible energy.

Support comes from legendary Colombian accordionist Anibal Velasquez, purveyor of frenzied, highly contagious Afro-Caribbean influenced dance music. Born in 1936, Velasquez is said to have recorded more than 300 LPs in his career, and was at the forefront of the *Música Tropical* movement.

Produced by the Barbican

Fri 1 Jul 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £10/ 30/ 35

Gregg Allman The Low Country Blues Tour + Tift Merritt

Gregg Allman's soulful and distinctive voice is one of the defining sounds in American music history. In *Low Country Blues* he puts his stamp on songs by blues giants Muddy Waters, BB King and Buddy Guy.

'A roaring return to form. Allman sounds like he's singing for his life.' Uncut ****

Fri 1 Jul, **Barbican FreeStage**, FREE

Errol Linton

Produced by Serious

Sat 2 Jul 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £12.50/ 15/ 20

Canadian Blast:

A Celebration of Contemporary Canadian Sound & Vision

Featuring some of Canada's hippest musical exports including 'otherworldly almost orchestral pop' from **Woodpigeon**, the extraordinary baroque chamber-pop of **The Hidden Cameras**, who have been compared to Phil Spector and Belle and Sebastian and folk-inflected singer-songwriter **Devon Sproule** and Canadian electro-pop pioneer, singer-songwriter and producer **Chilly Gonzales**. Plus FreeStage performances from **Linda McRae**, **Ryan Driver**, **Mantler**, **Maylee Todd** and **Sandro Perri**, and a free screening of *Ivory Tower*, featuring a score from **Gonzales**.

'Bold, confrontational and provocative' The Guardian on The Hidden Cameras

Produced by the Barbican

Tue 5 Jul 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £20/ 25/ 30/ 35

Sing the Truth: Angelique Kidjo, Dianne Reeves and Lizz Wright

Following the huge success of 2009's tribute to Nina Simone, three sensational vocalists - **Angelique Kidjo**, **Dianne Reeves** and **Lizz Wright** – return with a new programme honouring the spirits of Miriam Makeba, Billie Holiday, and Odetta, alongside their own original compositions.

Featuring **Geri Allen** on piano and keyboards, music director **Terri Lyne Carrington** on drums, **James Genus** on bass, **Romero Lubambo** on guitars and **Munyungo Jackson** on percussion.

Produced by the Barbican in association with Serious

Wed 6 Jul 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £20/ 22.50/ 25

Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings + Charles Bradley

Well known as one of the most exciting acts in the USA for both their explosive live shows and their gritty studio recordings on **Daptone Records**, this band have almost singlehandedly ushered in a return to a more traditional soul sound.

In support is Daptone label mate Charles Bradley – a genuine soul survivor.

'There's no tighter, more inventive ensemble active in deep funk and soul circles today.' The Washington Post

Produced by the Barbican

Wed 6 Jul, doors 7pm, **Hackney Empire** Tickets £10/ 15/ 20 (Standing/Seated)

Band of Gypsies: Taraf de Haïdouks & Kočani Orkestar

Two of the most famous, emblematic and brilliant Balkan Gypsy bands join forces in the historic setting of Hackney Empire for a raucous evening of wild new music and exhilarating arrangements of old favourites.

'Extraordinary – a magical mix of quicksilver melodies, amazing violin and cimbalom solos, and riotous traditional wedding songs.' Daily Telegraph

Produced by the Barbican in association with Serious

Thu 7 Jul 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall** Tickets £15/ 17.50/ 20/ 25

Randy Brecker & Bill Evans – Soulbop featuring Medeski Martin and Wood + Terence Blanchard Quintet

In the first half of this double bill expect fast and furious post-bop from latter-day New Orleans hero **Terence Blanchard** with his super-charged band.

The second half brings **Soulbop**, the supergroup driven by **Randy Brecker** and **Bill Evans** - the most potent horn section in jazz - together with the genre-busting bravado of **Medeski, Martin & Wood**.

'For those who like their jazz with a heavy dose of funk and fusion energy, Soulbop is just what the doctor ordered.' All About Jazz

Thu 7 July, **Barbican FreeStage**, FREE
Gutbucket

Produced by the Barbican in association with Serious

Thu 7 Jul, doors open 7pm, **Hackney Empire**, £10/ 12.50 (standing/Seated)

Re:Definition 2011

Re:Definition, a conceptual showcase designed to redefine urban music as we know it, by uniting established acts and emerging talent from east London through collaboration and blurring the boundaries between theatre, multimedia and live music. Months in the making, and involving artists and young people, this high quality finale directed by **Matthew 'Excalibah' Xi** and with visuals from **Jak Frsh** celebrates urban culture in style.

Featuring **Donae'o**, **RoxXan**, **Mike Hough** and more to be announced.

Produced by Urban Development, commissioned by CREATE and Barbican

Fri 8 Jul 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £27.50

Madeleine Peyroux

This compelling vocalist performs songs from her new album *Standing on the Rooftop*. Known as a gifted interpreter of material from the jazz canon to Bob Dylan, with her last album *Bare Bones*, Peyroux has found her voice as a songwriter.

'Peyroux has the gift of totally inhabiting a song, whatever the mood.' The Telegraph

Produced by Metropolis

Fri 8 Jul, doors open 8pm, **Hackney Empire, Tickets £20 (Standing/Seated)**

Calle 13 + Wara + Quantic (Tru Thoughts DJ set) till late

Having revolutionised Urban Latino music with their breakthrough debut album five years ago, **Calle 13** have always spoken to their fans loudly and clearly. Whether it was a dare to become a street-fighter, a shocking spin through a tango of sin, or call to the downtrodden to stand up for their rights, the game was the same: liberate your hips and your mind will follow. Support comes from London based **Wara** with a mix of Cuban funk, tropical rhythms and urban beats. **Quantic** DJs.

Produced by the Barbican in association with Como No!

Fri 8 Jul 7pm, **Canary Wharf, FREE**

World of Brass

Two bands with brass as a key element; **Orquestra Contemporanea Da Olinda** from Brazil bring latin grooves and rhythms, and East-London's jazz and ska inflected **Hackney Colliery Band**.

Produced by the Barbican in association with the Canary Wharf Group

Sat 9 Jul, doors 7pm, **Hackney Empire, £13.50/ 15/ 20 (Standing/Seated)**

**Penguin Cafe
+ Beth Jeans Houghton**

Their music has infiltrated daily life from films like *Napoleon Dynamite* to countless theme tunes, and they've played festivals from Bestival and The Big Chill to the Royal Albert Hall as part of the BBC Proms. Their sound is at once familiar and new, combining acoustic power and a beguiling, feisty charm.

'Penguin Cafe continues to occupy a unique place in music: nothing else has ever sounded quite like it. It's a true friend' Brian Eno

Produced by the Barbican

Sat 9 Jul 2pm til late, **Gillett Square & The Vortex FREE**

Dance Nations Dalston

The Barbican's theatre and music teams return to Dalston's Hoxton square with a day of music, dance workshops and performances for all ages and abilities.

Dance comes from **Tropical Isles, Strictly Dumb Prancing, Green Candle's Vinatge@Northwood, Alevi Centre's** Turkish folk dance and **Boy Blue**.

The day's music will be courtesy of **Orquestra Contemporanea Da Olinda, Yaaba Funk, Bass Clef & The Hackney Memorial Free Jazz Marching Band** and New York's **Gutbucket**.

Produced by the Barbican in association with HCD & The Vortex

Sun 10 & Mon 11 Jul, doors 7pm, **Hackney Empire**, £15 £20/ 25
(Standing/Seated)

Hugh Masekela: Celebrate Mama Afrika

The spirit of Miriam Makeba lives on in this all-star celebration curated by and featuring a fellow giant of South African music, legendary trumpeter **Hugh Masekela**.

Tonight's incredible line-up also features the distinct, powerful voice of South Africa's **Vusi Mahlasela**, plus two of the nation's most charismatic singers of today's generation, **Thandiswa** and **Lira**.

'Hugh Masekela performs with magisterial ease. He's as much a charismatic orator as musician, sending trumpet lines plunging and soaring.' Telegraph

Produced by the Barbican in association with Serious

Mon 11 Jul 8pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £10/ 20/ 25

Esperanza Spalding

Vocalist and bassist **Esperanza Spalding** is one of jazz's fastest rising stars, equally at home in the soul universe of Stevie Wonder or Joe Lovano's driving small jazz group. The first ever jazz musician to receive the accolade of the Grammy Award for Best New Artist, she returns to the Barbican following her sell-out April show.

'Esperanza Spalding is a marvel. Everything she does is jazz of the highest order. The girl just can't help sounding hip.' Evening Standard

Produced by Serious

Tue 12 Jul 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £15/ 20/ 25

Congotronics vs Rockers

Inspired by 2010's **Tradi-Mods vs Rockers** album (Crammed Records), Congolese street party band **Konono N°1** and fellow collective **Kasai Allstars** will be playing with the cream of alternative musicians: **Deerhoof, Juana Molina, Wildbirds and Peacedrums** and **Matt Mehlan** of **The Skeletons**.

'Indie and dance's finest come together to pay inventive tribute to the Congo's vital electro scene.' NME

Produced by the Barbican in association with Serious

Tue 12 Jul, **Barbican FreeStage** FREE:
Owiny Sigoma Band

Wed 13 Jul 8pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £15/ 20/ 25

Rain Dogs Revisited

An unforgettable evening as a stellar cast revisit Tom Waits' classic 1985 album *Rain Dogs*, featuring exuberant Irish singer **Camille O'Sullivan**, **St Vincent**, **Erika Stucky**, known for her soul-rock yodelling, the Belgian singer and guitarist of Zita Swoon **Stef Kamil Carlens**, **Arthur H**, **The Tiger Lillies**, **David Coulter**, **Leo Abrahams**, **Terry Edwards**, **Steve Nieve**, **Thomas Bloch**, **Tom Herbert** and **Seb Rochford**.

Co-produced by the Barbican, Les Nuits de Fourvière (Lyon), La Salle Pleyel (Paris) and Montreux Jazz Festival

Thu 14 & Fri 15 Jul 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £20/ 25/ 30

Metropole Orkest vs Basement Jaxx

Basement Jaxx's uniquely skewed take on dance music and the **Metropole Orkest's** cutting edge approach to orchestral interpretation collide in this one-off collaboration. This is the music of Basement Jaxx like you've never heard it – sweeping orchestral versions of hits including Red Alert, Where's Your Head At and Raindrops, conducted and orchestrated by leading London composer, **Jules Buckley**, in conjunction with Basement Jaxx themselves.

Produced by the Barbican in association with Serious

Thu 14 & Fri 15 Jul, **Barbican FreeStage**, FREE:
Red Baraat

Thu 14 Jul, doors open 7pm, **Hackney Empire**, £15/ £20 (Standing/Seated)

Ebo Taylor / Fool's Gold

Ebo Taylor is a Ghanaian musical legend, mixing Highlife, Afrobeat and Funk to create a sweet, infectious, euphoric sound. Influenced by Taylor, Los Angeles indie collective **Fool's Gold** weave Western pop with African rhythms and melodies. Tonight they join Taylor and his Afrobeat Academy for a specially commissioned collaborative performance.

Produced by the Barbican in association with 2 for the Road Productions

Sat 16 Jul 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £10/ 12.50/ 15

The Unthanks with **Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band**
+ special guests

Drawing on **The Unthanks** unique interpretations' of traditional song and the folk music of the northeast, this is a new commission with the National Brass Champions of Great Britain, **Brighthouse & Rastrick Brass Band**, regarded by many as the best public subscription band in the world. Featuring newly written pieces and arrangements of traditional material for folk and brass.

'Haunting, original and magnificent.' The Guardian on The Unthanks

Produced by the Barbican in association with Root Music

Sat 16 & Sun 17 July 1-9pm, **Regents Canal**, FREE

Shoreditch Festival 2011

This summer, for the third year running, the **Barbican Centre** collaborate with Shoreditch Trust at **Shoreditch Festival** to present a top quality mix of live music, theatre, dance, film and much more.

Shoreditch Festival 2011 is free and this year celebrates East London's waterways across towpaths, green spaces, basins, bridges and other unusual spaces along the Regent's Canal.

Produced by Shoreditch Trust and The Barbican, part of Shoreditch Festival

Mon 18 Jul 8pm, **Rich Mix Arts Centre**, Tickets £12.50

Baloji / Fatoumata Diawara

A night showcasing two of Africa's hippest musical exports, each combining tradition with the most contemporary of styles. **Baloji** with his band **Orchestre De La Katuba** are a sensation mixing rap & hip-hop with Congolese rumba to create a unique alchemy. Rising star **Fatoumata Diawara**, a Malian singer and recent signing to the World Circuit label.

Produced by the Barbican

Fri 22 Jul 8pm, **Wilton's Music Hall**, Tickets £15

Faster Than Sound : Brainwaves

Feat **Mira Calix, Anna Meredith & the Aurora Quartet**

Opening up a unique channel of communication between the worlds of art and science, Mira Calix and Anna Meredith present music performed by the Aurora Quartet.

Commissioned to mark the 40th anniversary of the MRI scanner's invention, *Brainwaves* responds by blending acoustic and electronic sound in a performance accompanied by **Loop.pH's** multimedia installation *Neural Nest*.

Produced by the Barbican in association with Aldeburgh Music and Lumin

Fri 22 Jul, 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £12.50/ 15/ 20/ 25

A Night In Tahrir Square

Feat El Tanbura, Azza Balba, Mustafa Said & Ramy Essam

A celebration of people power in the Arab world featuring musicians who played a crucial role in the recent Egyptian revolution. **Ramy Essam** was “the Billy Bragg of Tahrir Square”. Egypt’s greatest street music ensemble **El Tanbura** often entertained the protestors. **Azza Balba** sings the protest songs of her former husband Ahmed Fouad Negm - Egypt’s greatest living poet - and **Mustafa Said** is an Egyptian composer and virtuoso of the *oud*.

Produced by the Barbican

Sat 23 Jul 7.30pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £12/ 15/ 18

Aurelio + Danyèl Waro + Carlou D

A concert of fresh and emerging global voices. Honduras-born **Aurelio Martinez**, is a major figure in Garifuna culture, a fusion of West African and Central American musics. Awarded AfroPop’s Best Newcomer of the Year, Aurelio has recently worked with **Orchestra Baobab**.

Poet, musician, activist and Womex 2010 Artist Award winner **Danyèl Waro** hails from Réunion Island where he is a celebrated champion of Creole culture and once banned Maloya – a fusion of Malagasy and African rhythms.

An outspoken voice from Senegal’s hip-hop generation **Carlou D** brings spiritual roots music straight from Dakar

Produced by the Barbican

Sat 23 Jul 4-7pm, **Barbican FreeStage** FREE: Suhbagiyya and Tamikrest.

Sun 24 Jul 8pm, **Barbican Hall**, Tickets £15/ 20 /25

Irma Thomas + Soul Rebels Brass Band

A special concert celebrating the soul queen of New Orleans. Grammy-winning **Irma Thomas** makes a very rare appearance in the UK with her heady mix of Soul and Rhythm and Blues. Special guests to be announced.

Support comes from storming New Orleans brass outfit **Soul Rebels** mixing funk, soul, jazz and the spirit of Mardi Gras.

Produced by the Barbican

Sun 24 Jul 4-7pm, **Barbican FreeStage**, FREE
Anda Union & Feufollet.

Mon 25 Jul & Tue 26 Jul & Wed 27 Jul 8pm, **Wilton's Music Hall**, Tickets £22.50

Alina Ibragimova
The Quay Brothers

Set in the intimate and beautiful Wilton's Music Hall the **Quay Brothers** have given violinist **Alina Ibragimova**'s virtuosic chamber music a beguiling new visual context in this limited capacity atmospheric performance.

Produced by the Barbican, Manchester International Festival and Chetham's Foundation

Thu 28 Jul 7pm, **Canary Wharf**, FREE

Extraordinary Voices of the World

Anda Union dig deep into Mongol traditions unearthing forgotten music, while Grammy-nominated **Feufollet** fuse Cajun roots with a contemporary edge.

Produced by the Barbican in association with the Canary Wharf Group

Friday 29 July 2011 7.30pm, Village Underground, Tickets £15

Bomba Estéreo

Electro-tropical outfit **Bomba Estéreo** are back following last year's wild appearances at Hackney Empire and Shoreditch Festival as part of Blaze.

Led by the mighty voice of **Li Saumet**, Colombia's most uplifting export have been hailed by MTV as 'The Best New Band In The World', and their cover of Technotronic's *Pump Up The Jam* has been ripping up dance floors across the world.

'**Explosive.**' LA Weekly

Produced by Como No! in association with Colombiage

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