

FACTORY INTERNATIONAL SHARES UPCOMING MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS AT AVIVA STUDIOS

Having opened in October 2023 with the critically acclaimed, Matrix-inspired *Free Your Mind*, Factory International shares its upcoming live music programme and music highlights from its interdisciplinary programme for Manchester's landmark new venue, Aviva Studios - with more to be announced.

Designed by Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA), Aviva Studios is a global destination for arts, music and culture located at the heart of the new St John's neighbourhood in Manchester. The development has been led by Manchester City Council, with backing of £99.05m from HM Government and £7m National Lottery funding from Arts Council England.

Programmed and operated by Factory International, the organisation behind Manchester International Festival, Aviva Studios hosts a year-round programme of original productions and special events across all art forms – from major exhibitions to intimate performances and immersive experiences. Aviva Studios adds to the city's thriving music scene, with a broad range of gigs, including in-house concerts and collaborations with local and national promoters.

Aviva Studios welcomed its first audiences to the venue in summer 2023, previewing the new building before opening with a range of gigs in the Hall including **Angélique Kidjo's** first show in the city for a decade, revered Sufi singer **Sanam Marvi**, a collaboration between **AFRODEUTSCHE** and **Manchester Camerata**, and the premiere of a new show from **John Grant** celebrating pop and country legend Patsy Cline which has since toured the UK.

"It's so unique. Having been inside I felt like I was transported to another city, another space... It was extraordinary—the scale, the shape, the ambition behind it."
AFRODEUTSCHE

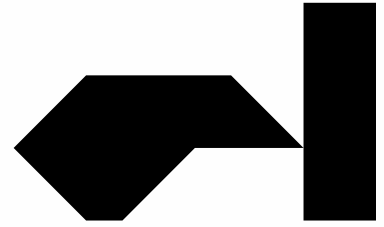
"As an artist, I have been dreaming about concert spaces that are more multi-functional. Where we don't waste energy, we don't waste space, and every form of art can be represented in one place, and finally this place is answering to my dreams as an artist."
Angélique Kidjo

The first gigs in the Warehouse comprised of Johnny Marr with a 30-piece orchestra composed of musicians from across the North for an expansive celebration of the last decade of his solo body of work, a Children of Zeus curated hometown show in which rap and grime MC icon Ghetts and legendary R&B band Loose Ends wowed the crowds, and an exclusive show from Sampha performed in the round.

Factory Sounds

Factory International runs a development programme for those in Manchester's music scene called Factory Sounds. Successful applicants are offered £1,000 of financial support towards the creation of a new project and also benefit from peer-to-peer support, access to Factory International's talent development programmes and networking opportunities. With no restrictions on what the project can be, previous Sounds alumni have created music management companies, financed the release of

PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDERS



singles, EPs and albums, fitted our recording studios, run production workshops, and supported artists to tour. After receiving over 370 applications this winter, the 2024 cohort of Factory Sounds artists and organisations is due to be announced in April.

UPCOMING GIGS

Underworld

12 – 13 April

Rick Smith and Karl Hyde have been bringing joy to fans across the world through their energetic live show for decades – and 2024 will see Underworld up their game once again, finishing off their extensive headline 2024 European tour at Aviva Studios. Latest single *denver luna* shows off the distinctive lyrics and the driving, propulsive sound they're known for. Invigorating and vital, their new work continues to cement Underworld as pioneers of the UK electronic music scene. No strangers to Factory International, the band were integral to the founding of Manchester Street Poem – a co-produced art collective whose work reflects the personal experiences of Manchester's marginalised communities and first featured in the 2017 edition of Manchester International Festival.

The Piano

21 April

Claudia Winkleman welcomes the most gifted amateur pianists from across the UK to Aviva Studios' stage for the final of *The Piano*. The final concert of the hit **Channel 4** TV series *The Piano* is coming to Aviva Studios in Manchester. A unique one night only celebration of the nation's favourite instrument, hosted by **Claudia Winkleman** and curated by the greatest living classical pianist, **Lang Lang**, and pop global superstar **Mika**.

Adrienne Lenker

25 April

Adrienne Lenker is a once-in-a-generation songwriter – best known as the lead vocalist, guitarist and songwriter of American indie folk band Big Thief. Her upcoming album follows a string of successful solo projects, which continue to surprise listeners. Lead single Ruined is a powerful, piano-driven homage to heartbreak.

Paraorchestra with Brett Anderson and Charles Hazlewood: Death Songbook

26 April

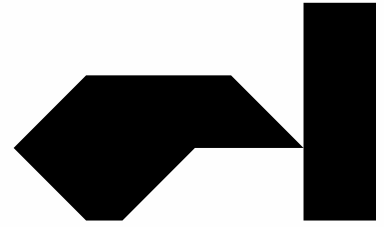
Paraorchestra, Brett Anderson and Charles Hazlewood come together for Death Songbook, an exquisite anthology of music by icons such as Echo and the Bunnymen, Skeeter Davis, Japan, David Bowie/Jacques Brel, and Suede. This rich set – amplified by the diversity and virtuosity of Paraorchestra musicians in new arrangements by composer Charlotte Harding - features delicate new versions of songs about death, the death of love, of loss, and ultimately of transcendence. It reminds us that music is our greatest friend in bleak times; inviting us to crouch around a candle and meet our sorrow head-on, comforting, nourishing, and uplifting.

Northern Soul Orchestrated

15 May

Northern Soul Orchestrated hits the road – curated by writer and BBC Radio 6 Music broadcaster **Stuart Maconie**, conducted by Manchester's own Joe Duddell and performed by the **BBC Concert Orchestra**. Originating in the industrial regions in the '60s and '70s across the

PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDERS



North and the Midlands, the Northern Soul subculture emerged as a passionate and vibrant all-night dance movement centred around American soul music. Expect exciting new arrangements, by **Fiona Brice** and Joe Duddell, of Northern Soul classic anthems – plus a host of very special guest vocalists.

Kelly Jones

17 May

Following the announcement of his new solo album, Kelly Jones performs two intimate shows in the Hall. The shows coincide with the release of his new studio album *Inevitable Incredible*, out on Stylus Records through Ignition Records Ltd on 3 May. The singer-songwriter will perform the new record in its entirety, with two performances per evening – offering fans their first chance to experience the album live following its release.

Richard Thompson

31 May

World-renowned guitarist and songwriter Richard Thompson arrives in Manchester on his Ship To Shore tour. A pioneer of British Folk Rock and winner of the coveted Ivor Novello Award for songwriting, Richard Thompson hits the road in 2024 with a stop at Aviva Studios for a journey through his extraordinary back catalogue – brought to life with a full band. Richard Thompson kickstarted his career as co-founder, lead guitarist and songwriter of **Fairport Convention** – a trailblazing rock outfit that ignited the British Folk Rock movement in the late 1960s. Now a wildly successful soloist – with 19 solo albums and a string of awards under his belt – Thompson received perhaps the highest praise when the *Los Angeles Times* dubbed him ‘the finest songwriter after Dylan’.

City of Floating Sounds: Huang Ruo

June 2024

Huang Ruo’s *City of Floating Sounds* is a new interactive symphony fusing music and technology. Audiences will experience a journey around Manchester, guided by fragments of sound which coalesce and build as those listening come together – culminating in an immersive orchestral concert at Aviva Studios, performed by the **BBC Philharmonic**.

Bat for Lashes

27 June

Catch Mercury Prize-nominated indie favourite Bat For Lashes at Aviva Studios as part of her first UK headline tour in five years – in celebration of upcoming album *The Dream Of Delphi*. Singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and visual artist **Natasha Khan** burst onto the music scene nearly 20 years ago as Bat For Lashes. With five studio albums under her belt, and two Ivor Novello Awards including Song of the Year 2019, Bat For Lashes returns with *The Dream of Delphi*, Khan’s most personal album to date, reflecting on early motherhood across ten spiritual ‘song poems’. We’re thrilled to welcome Bat For Lashes to Aviva Studios for a visionary show blending vocals, movement and elements of performance art.

Janelle Monáe

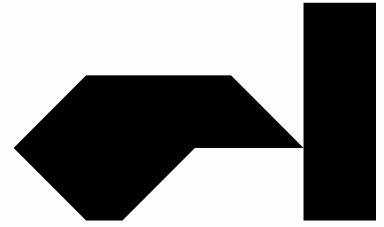
2-3 July

The shapeshifting, multi-talented superstar returns to Manchester this summer for a three-night residency. After an unforgettable, sold-out performance at MIF19, Janelle Monáe is back with a series of electrifying but intimate nights of music. One of the most celebrated artists of the modern era,

PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDERS



Aviva Studios
Water Street, Manchester M3 4JQ
factoryinternational.org



Monáe fuses a blend of genres – soul, funk, hip hop and new wave – with big concepts and slick pop productions.

MUSIC IN CROSS-ART FORM COLLABORATIONS

Jungle Book: Robert Wilson & CocoRosie

March 2024

Visionary director Robert Wilson joins forces with **CocoRosie** – their fourth collaboration in theatre – for a spellbinding stage adaptation of Kipling’s classic story *The Jungle Book* featuring stunning set designs, dazzling costumes and a dreamy original soundtrack. Co-produced by Factory International, *Jungle Book* has already wowed audiences in Paris, Florence and Antwerp, before arriving in Manchester for its very first shows in English. With live by original music from **CocoRosie**, Robert Wilson has crafted a magical show set to delight children and adults alike.

Robin/Red/Breast: Maxine Peake, Sarah Frankcom and Imogen Knight with Gazelle Twin

May 2024

Widely regarded as a precursor to *The Wicker Man*, John Bowen’s *Robin Redbreast* was first broadcast in 1970 as part of the BBC’s famous Play For Today TV series, exploring similar themes of paganism and fertility sacrificial rites within a horror setting. 50 years on, Maxine Peake, Sarah Frankcom and Imogen Knight – co founders of Music, Art, Activism and Theatre (MAAT) – are creating an immersive theatrical reimagining joining forces with acclaimed electronica artist **Gazelle Twin**. Their feminist take shifts the focus towards Norah – the woman whose body the local village claims as its own.

ARK: Laurie Anderson

November 2024

Six years after breaking ground on the site of Aviva Studios and four years after presenting *To the Moon* for Manchester International Festival 2019, Laurie Anderson returns with a hugely ambitious new music and multi-media theatrical experience, *ARK*, asking the question: if we are headed towards disaster, will there be an Ark? Fuelled by Anderson’s fascination with humanity’s current reality and weaving together threads from her decades-long career, *ARK* is an exploration of how the world might need to be reconfigured in order to be saved.

PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDERS



Aviva Studios
Water Street, Manchester M3 4JQ
factoryinternational.org