



## MORE MUSIC ADDED TO MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2025 LINE UP

- **WU LYF, Lex Amor, AFRODEUTSCHE, JD Twitch (Optimo)** added to **MIF25** as part of ***Surround Sounds***, celebrating 20 years of **Sounds From The Other City (SFTOC)**.
- Also part of this year's music programme is **Richard Russell's** ever-evolving collaborative music project, **Everything is Recorded** and a unique hybrid performance from **Mary Anne Hobbs** and **Anna Phoebe**, with further artists and acts to be announced.
- **8000 tickets available for £10 or less alongside free events across the Festival**
- **MIF25 runs Thursday 3 July to Sunday 20 July 2025** with a host of new work presented by Factory International from artists such as; **Blackhaine, Eric Cantona, Edgar Davids, Juliet Ellis, FAFSWAG, Andy Field and Becky Darlington, John Grant, Shilpa Gupta, Germaine Kruip, Juan Mata, Ntombizodwa Nyoni, The Royal Ballet, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Rosabel Tan, Santiago Yahuarcani and more**

Today **Manchester International Festival (MIF)** announces new additions to its music programme for 2025, with **WU LYF, Lex Amor, AFRODEUTSCHE, JD Twitch (Optimo)** joining the bill as part of ***Surround Sounds***, a celebration of Salford's independent festival of new music, **Sounds From The Other City (SFTOC)**, brought together by **From The Other**. Further artists will be announced in the coming weeks.

Over the last Friday of MIF25, ***Surround Sounds*** will take over the vast South Warehouse and outdoor spaces of Aviva Studios, for a late-night, non-stop carousel of sounds and unexpected performances-in-the-round, from an array of artists that exemplify the kaleidoscope of styles, energies and characters that have graced SFTOC stages over the past two decades, **From The Other's** flagship annual event.

**WU LYF** exploded onto the scene in the late noughties, performing some of their very first shows in DIY venues in Salford at SFTOC. What proceeded was a whirlwind career that blasted around the globe with headline festival appearances, prime-time TV slots and a thrilling debut album, 'Go Tell Fire to the Mountain'. After a 13-year hiatus, the band are back with a run of live shows, European festival appearances, and their first new music since their 2012 breakup. Following three sold out shows at The Kings Arms, Salford, **WU LYF** will perform their biggest UK date in-the-round at Aviva Studios on 18 July.

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Alongside festival alumni, *Surround Sounds* will also see artists with ground-breaking new releases, take to the stage to celebrate the vibrancy of the UK independent music scene. North London rapper **Lex Amor** will perform her long-awaited sophomore project 'Forward Ever', a profound meditation on resilience and the human condition and her most personal and sonically ambitious musical attempt to date.

Also on the lineup: Manchester based viola player **Sophia Dignam**, whose impressive roster of collaborators include Jorja Smith and Cleo Sol; rapper **Che3kz**; Manchester's legendary drummer **Adisa Allen**; and the transcendent sounds of Gambian kora player **Jali Kuyateh**.

Closing the party, **Optimo's JD Twitch** and **AFRODEUTSCHE** will keep everyone dancing into the early hours unleashing iconic local performers **Ghetto Fabulous**, **The Fvck Pigs**, **Club Clam** and drag royalty **Banksie** and **Coco Cannell** with what is set to be an iconic back-to-back set.

**Lex Amor** added *"Always good to be back in Manchester - there's a real energy to the city. I've heard good things about MIF and the space it holds here, so it feels good to be involved this year. Nice to be sharing that space with a wide range of artists doing their thing."*

**Rivca Burns, Head of Music at Factory International** said: *"As someone who has been born from the grassroots of Greater Manchester, the celebration of SFTOC and the people the festival has impacted over its 20 years, myself included, is essential. This line up is exceptional, full of incredible Manchester talent that have had international impact, including MIF Alumni Afrodeutsche and WU L Y F, alongside brilliant national artists. It truly encapsulates what SFTOC does best in bringing artists from different genres together to create rounded and immersive experiences for its community. This truly is an experience not to miss."*

**Mark Carlin, Director of From The Other** said: *"The secret to 20 years of success for Sounds From The Other City lies in the festival's hunger for raw and exciting ideas and a genuine openness to collaborative creativity, every year transforming the 'in between' spaces of our Salford home into a May Day Bank Holiday bonanza. Working with Factory International to celebrate our 20th anniversary during Manchester International Festival, igniting some grassroots magic in the heart of this extraordinary cultural venue in the North, is beyond exciting, and a real testament to the power and potential of creative partnerships across our region."*

The Festival's music line-up also consists of **Richard Russell's** ever-evolving music project **Everything is Recorded** (16 July), with the multi-talented producer and founder of XL Recordings inviting you into his musical world for a night of innovation and collaboration. This performance marks a significant milestone, as Russell will be joined on stage by an expanded lineup of collaborators and special guests, performing live for the first time.



Also on the bill is a unique hybrid performance by **Mary Anne Hobbs** and **Anna Phoebe** (15 July), who bring together live DJing, sound design and voice, with violins, viola and live electronics. In the age of attention-obliviation, Hobbs + Phoebe will explore the question: WHAT DO YOU WANT?

The performance will feature elements drawn from raw Manchester sources and bespoke music written for the space.

**Manchester International Festival 2025** takes place from **Thursday 3 July to Sunday 20 July 2025**. This is the first edition under new Creative Director **Low Kee Hong**, featuring new work from **Blackhaine, Eric Cantona, Mary Anne Hobbs & Anna Phoebe, Richard Russell's Everything is Recorded, Ruhaniyat (روحانیت) - An Orchestral Sufi Experience, Edgar Davids, Juliet Ellis, FAFSWAG, Andy Field and Becky Darlington, John Grant, Shilpa Gupta, Germaine Kruip, Juan Mata, Ntombizodwa Nyoni, The Royal Ballet, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Rosabel Tan, Santiago Yahuarcani** and more

Working with partners across the city and the world to build on the MIF legacy, the wide-ranging, multi-artform programme of groundbreaking world premieres will inspire fresh perspectives, challenge conventional thought and invite audiences to 'dream differently' - envision new possibilities, brighter futures and utopian spaces. Presenting some of the most exciting creative minds of our generation, the programme champions indigenous artists and creators from the Global South, expanding the Festival's renowned international impact as well as fostering deep connections with local artists and communities in the North West of England.

*Surround Sounds* takes place 18 July at Aviva Studios as part of Manchester International Festival. Tickets available from [factoryinternational.org/whats-on/surround-sounds](https://factoryinternational.org/whats-on/surround-sounds).

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Download high resolution images [here](#) – password: F@ctoryIntPR355



## NOTES TO EDITORS

### ABOUT FACTORY INTERNATIONAL

Factory International is the organisation behind Manchester International Festival and the city's landmark cultural space, Aviva Studios.

Factory International commissions, produces and presents a year-round programme of original creative work and special events at Aviva Studios, online, and internationally through its network of co-commissioners and partners. It also stages the city-wide Manchester International Festival (MIF) every other year.

MIF is one of the world's leading arts festivals, and the first to be entirely focused on the commissioning and producing of ambitious new work. Staged every two years in Manchester since 2007, the festival invites world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds to create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work in venues and spaces across Greater Manchester. Previous artists include, Björk, Jeremy Deller, Akram Khan, Yayoi Kusama, David Lynch, Wayne McGregor, Steve McQueen, Yoko Ono, Maxine Peake, Skepta, and The xx

Factory International plays an important role in the lives of Greater Manchester residents, bringing jobs, skills, training and creative opportunities. Through the Factory Academy, Factory International is training the creative workforce of the future, while its pioneering creative engagement and artist development programmes create year-round opportunities for local people to get involved, from participating in flagship commissions to shaping the organisation through involvement in its public forums.

Aviva Studios was designed by the world-leading practice Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA), with Ellen van Loon as lead architect – their first major public building in the UK. Its development was led by Manchester City Council, with backing from HM Government and National Lottery funding from Arts Council England.

Factory International is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

[factoryinternational.org](http://factoryinternational.org)

### ABOUT FROM THE OTHER

[www.fromtheother.com](http://www.fromtheother.com)

From The Other is an independent organisation based in Salford, UK, which champions underrepresented artists, with a focus on leftfield and grassroots music.

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Its flagship event, Sounds From The Other City, has been celebrated as one of the UK's leading independent festivals, offering a platform for diverse voices and transformative live experiences for the past 20 years.

Since founding as a year-round organisation in 2023, From The Other has further developed its work with some of the most exciting boundary-pushing artists in the UK, whilst continuing to foster the collaborative and community-centred ethos of alternative and DIY music culture.