

# STREET

# SURGE IN SPRING

mac

Midlands Arts Centre

SATURDAY 25 APRIL

IV 2020 | 12 - 9PM



# WELCOME TO SURGE IN SPRING IV!

PHOTO CREDIT: MARCIN SZ



Surge in Spring is in its fourth year and once again we are excited to present a kaleidoscopic day of music, art and dance for you. Surge is a contemporary jazz, roots and folk Orchestra that collaborates with musicians from all genres and cultures, and our festival presents our work alongside other musicians we love. We are especially excited this year to welcome the Chuanju Opera Troupe all the way from Chongqing, China who will be in residence with Surge Orchestra to create brand new music and collaborations.

Surge is presented in partnership with Midlands Arts Centre and we are grateful to be working with local Birmingham promoters and curators again including Celebrating Sanctuary, Tony-Dudley Evans and Room Art who have all curated and sponsored individual events to create an even more diverse and exciting programme.

Thank you to all the organisations, funders and musicians involved and especially to everyone who has come to enjoy and support the music!

Cheers!

**Sid Peacock** - Artistic Director and Composer

“WILDLY CREATIVE, THE BEST STUFF I’VE HEARD IN AN AGE”

Independent on Sunday on the Surge Orchestra.

Keep up to date with the latest Surge news by visiting [www.surgeorchestra.com](http://www.surgeorchestra.com)

CONNECT WITH US!

[facebook.com/surgeorchestra](https://facebook.com/surgeorchestra)

[instagram.com/surgeorchestra](https://instagram.com/surgeorchestra)

[twitter.com/surgeorchestra](https://twitter.com/surgeorchestra)



# THE CHUANJU SURGE!

PHOTO CREDIT: MARCIN SZ



>7PM / FROM £10 / MAIN THEATRE

Chongqing’s Chuanju Opera Troupe travel to Birmingham to spend a week long residency working with Sid Peacock’s Surge Orchestra.

The Chongqing Theatre of Chongqing Municipality was established in 1955. It grew out of Chongqing Experimental Chuanju Opera Theater (founded in 1951). The company has received awards at the First National Traditional Opera Emulation Performance Meeting and Southwest Region Drama Joint Performance organisation in numerous categories including opera, director, performance, music composition, and stage art. The company enjoys a distinguished international reputation and has performed thought the world.

In 2014 Sid was British Council/PRSF musician in residence at Chongqing Chuanju Opera. He has been working again with them this year in Chongqing and Shanghai at the Xintiandi World Music festival. In partnership with Midlands Arts Centre the concert will present a unique and fiery fusion of Chuanju Opera Styles, folk, roots and groove.

Live visuals by Leon Trimble.



## A FOCUS ON STEVE TROMANS



> 1PM | FROM £8.50 | MAIN THEATRE

Pianist and composer Steve Tromans performs with young saxophonist and composer, Olivia Murphy and his Dead As Dillinger Band, featuring Tymoteusz Jozwiak on drums, Richard Scott on viola and vocals and Sarah Farmer on violin.

Steve's playing is a key part of the Surge Orchestra and the Peacock Angell Band; his projects include setting Allen Ginsberg's Howl poem to music, a tribute to the Chilean revolutionary singer songwriter Victor Jara, and the Musickosmos Suite for the Town Hall Symphony Hall Sounds of Space weekend.

In 2013 he spearheaded a project which brought together improvising musicians from Birmingham (UK) and Chicago, an ensemble which gave performances at key underground venues in Chicago and which was featured on BBC Radio Three's "Jazz on 3" programme on two occasions. In 2016 and 2018 he was part of the Paul Dunmall and Hamid Drake Quintet tours of the UK - a venture which has resulted in two albums to date.

[www.stevetromans.bandcamp.com](http://www.stevetromans.bandcamp.com)

> SUPPORTED BY TDE PROMOTIONS

## KRAR COLLECTIVE



> 4PM | FROM £8.50 | MAIN THEATRE

Krar Collective serve up a colourful feast of funk-ed-up Ethiopian grooves based on traditional music.

Led by Temesgen Zeleke, a former student of Ethiojazz legend Mulatu Astatke, Krar Collective perform a rootsy yet contemporary take on traditional music from Ethiopia based on other-worldly modes and driven by hypnotic rhythms. The traditional acoustic krar lyre is associated with the azmari minstrel tradition; electrified, in the hands of Zeleke it becomes a gritty, ancient rock guitar.

Accompanied just by traditional and super-tight kebero drums played by Grum Begashaw and fronted by stunning vocals of Genet Assefa, Krar Collective create a surprisingly full band sound, leading one critic to name them 'The Ethiopian White Stripes'. With songs that journey from gently, rippling acoustic numbers to truly rabble-raising, this music that is at once African, and yet unique to Ethiopia will move your soul and rock your feet.

> SUPPORTED BY CELEBRATING SANCTUARY

### THE KATIES



> 12.30PM

Featuring Katie Stevens on clarinet, whistles and flute and Katy Rose-Bennett on guitars and keyboard, The Katies create a veritable smorgasbord of musical delights! From klezmer and folk music to jazz standards, alt-country, originals and reinterpretations of 60s pop moving from delicate harmonies to fiery dance tunes in seconds.

> CURATED BY ROOM ART

### BECKY MILLS & RUTH ANGELL



> 2.00PM

A folk duo comprising guitar, violin, beautiful voices and sublime harmonies, combining Becky's evocative songs and Ruth's effortless musicality and pure vocals. Prepare for a journey of wonder, magic, love and the almost surreal.

> CURATED BY ROOM ART

### JOSEPH WILLIAMS



> 3.00PM

Joe Williams is a bard of quiet places, obsessed with the sounds of words as melody shapes them. Presenting a solo performance, he explores the themes of landscape, memory, trauma and transformation through his music.

> CURATED BY ROOM ART

### LAURA OWEN-WRIGHT



> 3.30PM

Laura is a Birmingham-based musician, originally from New Zealand. Having performed with the likes of Electric Swing Circus Laura performs a solo set today describing her music as 'primitive sounds with every modern convenience'.

> CURATED BY ROOM ART

### CZAJKA & PUCHACZ



> 5.00PM

Czakka & Puchacz (Lapwing & Eagle Owl) is a Copenhagen-based duo of Slovenian pianist Kaja Draksler and Polish drummer Szymon GDSiorek. Their musical language is enriched by audio tape samples deriving from Polish and Slovenian fairy tales. Acoustic musique concrète and European free improvisation meet the melodies of disco polo, rock riffs and drilling of woodpeckers.

> CURATED BY TDE PROMOTIONS

### THE OUTER CIRCLE



> 6.00PM

The Outer Circle are influenced by groove and modern music forms as much as by their parents record collections. This collective of young musicians from Birmingham explore writing their own music as well as reworking some of their favourite tunes featuring Archie Tulk on alto sax, Judah Daniels on keys, Louis Hamilton-Foad on drums and Alexander Polack on trumpet.

> CURATED BY ROOM ART

**SWITCH** > 1:30PM

SWITCH are a talented group of young musicians and MAC's very own band in residence. SWITCH write, produce, record and perform their own material covering important topics relating to their personal lives, the challenges they face and the community they live in as well as being young and having fun! Their songs advocate for equality, support women's rights, peace and openly talk about special educational needs and disability.

**JAZZLINES GOSPEL ENSEMBLE** > 2:10PM

The Jazzlines Gospel Ensemble is a new group providing young musicians aged 11 - 19 in Birmingham with free access to this incredible music. Led by Birmingham gospel legends, Ray and Claudia Prince, this is their first public performance playing a variety of traditional and contemporary gospel music. To find out how to get involved visit [www.thsh.co.uk/jazzlines](http://www.thsh.co.uk/jazzlines)

**BOBTAIL** > 3PM

Inspired by the writing of Gunther Schuller, George Russell and Stravinsky, Bobtail glide effortlessly between intricate compositions and dramatic improvisations. This performance features trumpeter Aaron Diaz, pianist Andrew Woodhead, cellist Emma Capp and violinist/vocalist Faith Brackenbury performing brand new music composed and arranged by Alicia Gardener-Trejo, maintaining Bobtail's quintessential quirky character and rich textures.

**NOTEBENDERS BIG BAND** > 5PM

Founded in 2004 by legendary saxophonist Andy Hamilton, the Notebenders originated as a small group of Andy's students who met to develop musical skills and confidence. After appointing Maurice Williams as Musical Director, the band soon grew to over 25 members and nowadays recruits musicians of all ages and abilities with a strong focus on community spirit.

**BOA JAZZ AND FUNK BAND** > 6:15PM

Birmingham Ormiston Academy is a specialist performing arts school in central Birmingham. The BOA Jazz and Funk Band rehearse weekly with their band leaders Toni Grehan, Xhosa Cole, Robbie Moore and Ray Prince, where they practice their own compositions as well as jazz standards.

**MOSELEY MISFITS**

## &gt; MAIN FOYER - 12:30PM

Moseley Misfits is a community music group for adults playing any instrument and ability. Led by Reuben Penny and Rob Jones, they play everything from film scores to pop and folk tunes to pieces composed collectively. They aim to create an open and enjoyable space for like-minded people to connect through music. They are currently funded by The National Lottery Community Fund.

**WAN SHEUNG CULTURAL DANCE**

## &gt; POP UP PERFORMANCES BETWEEN 6 AND 7PM

## &gt; MAIN FOYER

Formed in 2009 and supported by dedicated volunteers, Wan Sheung Cultural Dance Group is hosted by the Chinese Community Centre and seeks to promote Chinese culture and community cohesion through dance, performing regularly in Birmingham and beyond.

**DIDIER KASALA**

## &gt; 1ST FLOOR GALLERY &gt; 2:30PM

Didier Kasala is a singer/songwriter and founder member of Birmingham based Congolese band The Redeemed. Didier brings his beautiful and soulful vocal performance with an acoustic set. Recent collaborations include The Froe, Culture Dub Orchestra and groundbreaking concept album "The Long Road", involving some of the UK's top musicians and internationally acclaimed artists.

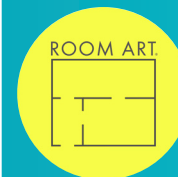
**K'ANTU ENSEMBLE**

## &gt; 1ST FLOOR GALLERY &gt; 3:15PM

K'antu Ensemble are an intriguing and multi-talented vocal and instrumental ensemble known for their unique fusion of early, world and folk music. They perform extensively across the UK and abroad. Today's performance features new arrangements as well as favourites from their two CDs Dancing & the Divine and Gusto.

**ROOM ART**

Room Art are an independent art gallery in Birmingham and are also curators, producers and managers of art and music. At this year's festival they present an exciting programme including performances in the Hexagon theatre, a visual art installation and Children's Art Workshops.

**VISUAL ART INSTALLATIONS****HEXAGON FOYERS BETWEEN 12 AND 7PM**

Room Art will be taking over the Hexagon Foyers to create Visual Art Installations including works by Magdalena Jasiak (Poland) and Matthew Springer (UK) and Eleha Panahi (Iran).

**CHILDREN'S ARTS WORKSHOPS****BRYANT ROOM DROP-IN BETWEEN 4 AND 6PM**

The European Welfare Association (EWA CIC) provide sport and art workshops for the whole community to promote Polish and European culture and heritage.

Join them for two hours of family friendly creative art making in this drop in session, suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult).

## ▼ TICKETS

Ticket prices for the Main Theatre gigs start at £8.50. All other performances and workshops are free with limited capacity.

For more info visit: [macbirmingham.co.uk/surgeinspring20](http://macbirmingham.co.uk/surgeinspring20)

**mac**  
Midlands Arts Centre

SEE MORE. SAVE MORE.

Book early for the best prices.



### VENUE

Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park,  
Birmingham, B12 9QH

Sales and Information: 0121 446 3232

### DIRECTIONS

[macbirmingham.co.uk/visit/getting-here](http://macbirmingham.co.uk/visit/getting-here)

Please be aware parking is ticketed and gets  
busy - arrive early!

Surge Forward Music and Arts is a registered  
Community Interest Company facilitating  
cultural events with an emphasis on  
collaboration, creating talent development  
opportunities and commissioning new works.

Surge Orchestra is grateful for the general  
support from funders and supporters to make  
the Surge in Spring Festival possible:



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**mac**  
Midlands Arts Centre

**TDE PROMOTIONS**