

SURGE FORWARD MUSIC & ARTS PRESENTS

# SURGE

IN SPRING V

EXCEPTIONAL MUSIC  
FROM AROUND  
THE GLOBE



**SURGE  
ORCHESTRA**



**KRAR  
COLLECTIVE**



**MARIO  
BATKOVIC**



**HYELIM  
KIM**



**CHENG  
YU**



**LIU  
QING**



**EIMEAR  
MCGOWEN**



**NIWEL  
TSEMBU**



**RIHAB  
AZAR**



**JUICE  
ALEEM**

PLUS MANY MORE

22 & 23 APRIL 2022



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

**MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE  
BIRMINGHAM**

**mac**  
Midlands Arts Centre



# WELCOME



"It's an absolute joy to be able to present our Surge in Spring festival again after an enforced silence of two years. We've taken this opportunity to bring together some of our amazing collaborators from over the past five years and also present music that wasn't able to happen in 2020.

As always we have strove to present exceptional music from around the globe and champion a vision of unity and friendship through art. In addition to Surge and our guests we are especially excited to bring Mario Batkovic, Hyelim Kim and Krar Collective and to also expand our festival over two days.


We are very grateful for the generous support from Arts Council England, to Deborah Kermode at Midlands Arts Centre and all the team there for their support and to Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham and TDE Promotions for co-promoting."

Sid Peacock, Artistic Director of Surge Forward Music and Arts

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# MARIO BATKOVIC

WITH SUPPORT FROM

## HYELIM KIM

Mixing classical and contemporary sounds, Mario Batkovic explores the sonic possibilities of his instruments, without effects or loops, rather through a mutualist symbiotic relationship between man and instrument. Challenging, hypnotic and grandiose; Batkovic's symphonic vision is unique. He has received widespread critical acclaim, including from Rolling Stone magazine who voted his self-titled debut album in the Top 10 'Best Avant Albums of 2017.'

Supporting Mario is performer, composer and researcher Hyelim Kim. Her aim is to open new possibilities for Korean music and to promote exchange with a wide variety of musical cultures. She was identified as a pioneering artist by the Korean Arts Council and has been afforded many other opportunities and prizes both in Korea and in the UK. Her debut recording Nim: Hyelim Kim Taegüm Collection (Universal) includes traditional pieces alongside her own compositions.



MAIN THEATRE • FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2022  
DOORS 19.30 • SUPPORT 20.00 • MARIO 20.30

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# KRAR COLLECTIVE

The mighty Krar Collective serve up a mind-blowing feast of exuberant Ethiopian song and dance tunes. Led by Temesgen Zeleke, student of jazz legend Mulatu Astatke, the band perform a contemporary take on roots music reflecting the diversity of cultures within Africa's second most populous country. In the virtuoso hands of Zeleke, the ancient krar lyre becomes a gritty rock guitar, weaving around the stunning vocals of Genet Assefa and the driving rhythms of Amare Mulugeta on traditional kebero drums. The line-up has recently expanded to include virtuoso Baby Masinko on the extraordinary one-stringed Ethiopian masinko fiddle and Dawit Seyoum on bass krar for added funkiness!

*"One of the grooviest and most hypnotic bands at Damon Albarn's Africa Express bonanza." Time Out*

This event is supported by and presented in collaboration with Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham



# SURGE ORCHESTRA

Boasting a stellar line up of special guests, the musical force of Surge Orchestra is back with a celebratory concert giving life to previous collaborations, as well as presenting exciting new work and arrangements. Expect a melting pot of fusions spanning jazz, folk and roots all presented with an ever present groove. You'll see appearances from Cheng Yu and members of UK Chinese music ensemble, Irish flautist Eimear McGeown, rapper Juice Aleem, guitarist Niwel Tsumbu and Syrian oud player Rihab Azar.

*"Wildly creative, the best stuff I've heard in an age"*  
*Independent on Sunday*

## SATURDAY 23 APRIL - FREE EVENTS

### **RIHAB AZAR** HEXAGON THEATRE 2 - 2:30PM

Rihab is a talented London-based Syrian oud player who first worked with us as one of our Surge New Works composers. We're excited to have her back. As well as this solo set showcasing her beautiful oud playing, she will be a special guest in Saturday night's Surge Orchestra performance.



### **NIWEL TSEMBU & DIDIER KISALA** MAIN FOYER 2:30 - 3:00PM



Two long standing Surge collaborators come together in a new duo collaboration especially for the festival. Since arriving in Ireland in 2004 from the Congo, Niwel Tumbu has developed an enviable reputation as a masterfully elegant and fluent guitarist, vocalist, musician, collaborator and composer. Didier Kisala is a singer/songwriter and founder member of Birmingham-based Congolese band The Redeemed, bringing beautiful and soulful vocal performances to his acoustic sets.

### **SWITCH ENSEMBLE** FOYLE STUDIO 2:30 - 2:50PM



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

### **CHENG YU & LIU QING** HEXAGON THEATRE 3 - 3:30PM



Cheng Yu has performed internationally and co-founded the UK Chinese Ensemble in 1994. She teaches pipa, qin, and a Chinese ensemble class at The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. Liu Qing is a professional erhu player, now based in the UK. They will play a duo set, performing their take on traditional Chinese music, as well as perform with Surge Orchestra as special guests.

### **BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS' RECORDER ENSEMBLE** MAIN FOYER 3:30 - 4:00pm



Recorder Ensemble is a tightly knit group, which rehearses and performs a varied repertoire, from the 16th Century to the avant-garde and specially commissioned works. It is conducted by Michelle Holloway. In 2018 they were invited to perform in the coveted Music For Youth Schools' Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, following their acclaimed performance as part of the Music For Youth National Festival.

This event is presented in collaboration with Services for Education Music Service

**Services**  
For **Education**

## SATURDAY 23 APRIL - FREE EVENTS

### **JAZZLINES ENSEMBLE** FOYLE STUDIO 3:30 - 3:50PM



B:Music's Jazzlines Ensemble supports young musicians between 11-19 years old from Birmingham to develop their ensemble playing skills and learn more about jazz and improvisation.

This event is presented in collaboration with B:Music.

**B:Music**

### **NIFECO COSTA TRIO** FOYLE STUDIO 5:30 - 6:15PM



Nifeco is a singer and guitarist from Guinea-Bissau, a Portuguese speaking country in West Africa. For the festival, he'll be premiering his brand new trio working alongside pianist David Austin Grey and drummer Johnno Gaze.

This event is supported by and presented in collaboration with Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham.



### **KATIE STEVENS & AARON OLWELL** MAIN FOYER 5:30 - 6:00pm



From Birmingham to Virginia, Katie and Aaron join musical forces with a plethora of interests and instruments to hand. Prepare to hear Appalachian fiddling, Irish fluting, balkan clarinetting and melodies from around the world in between.

### **RICHARD FOOTE'S DOUBLE TROMBONE QUINTET** HEXAGON THEATRE 6 - 6:50PM



A two trombone front line is an exciting and slightly terrifying prospect, especially when the two trombonists are Richard Foote and Kieran McCleod, the leading lights of the Young Pilgrims marching band. The quintet is completed by Andy Woodhead on piano, Olie Brice on bass and Andrew Bain on drums.

This event is supported by and presented in collaboration with TDE Promotions

**TDE PROMOTIONS**



Midlands Arts Centre

### **TICKETS**

Ticket prices for the Main Theatre gigs start at £7.50 + booking fee.  
All other performances and workshops are free with limited capacity.

[bit.ly/SurgeInSpringV](http://bit.ly/SurgeInSpringV)

### **VENUE**

Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH  
Sales and Information: 0121 446 3232

### **DIRECTIONS**

Please be aware parking is ticketed and gets busy - arrive early!  
[macbirmingham.co.uk/visit/getting-here](http://macbirmingham.co.uk/visit/getting-here)

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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. We are grateful for the general support from funders and partners to make the Surge in Spring Festival possible.



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