

Royal Festival Hall
on the South Bank

sbc

Elvis Costello Meltdown

with

The Jazz
Passengers

Deborah Harry

Bill Frisell

The Brodsky
Quartet

Moondog

John Harle

June Tabor

Jeff Buckley

and many others

23 June - 1 July 1995

Booking and Information
0171 928 8800

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
The **Guardian**



Meltdown 95

For the last two years *Meltdown* has unleashed an outburst of the unexpected, the startling, witty and original on the South Bank. This year, Elvis Costello is in the driving seat, presenting his own brilliant and musically anarchic vision in the festival.

Costello's career has spanned more than two decades in which time he has recorded more than a dozen albums including *This Year's Model*, *Armed Forces*, *Get Happy*,

Imperial Bedroom, *King of America*, *Blood and Chocolate*, *Spike*, *Mighty Like A Rose* and *Brutal Youth*. A genuine music addict who shows no respect for musical boundaries, Costello's interest in all genres of music seems unending, reflected in the other artists who have recorded many of his 300 or so songs, performers as diverse as Chet Baker, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison and Blur.

'You may hear things you've never heard before and things you've heard before in an entirely different way. This year's *Meltdown* is a celebration of contemporaneous music. There will be music from near and far, from now and then, both entirely new and extremely old. Happening now.'

Elvis Costello,
Artistic Director



Front cover photo by Tim Kasi



Friday 23 June

Royal Festival Hall RFH ①

8pm

The Jazz Passengers

with guest vocalists
Deborah Harry
and Elvis Costello

plus support,
Rebirth Brass Band
and Afro Blok

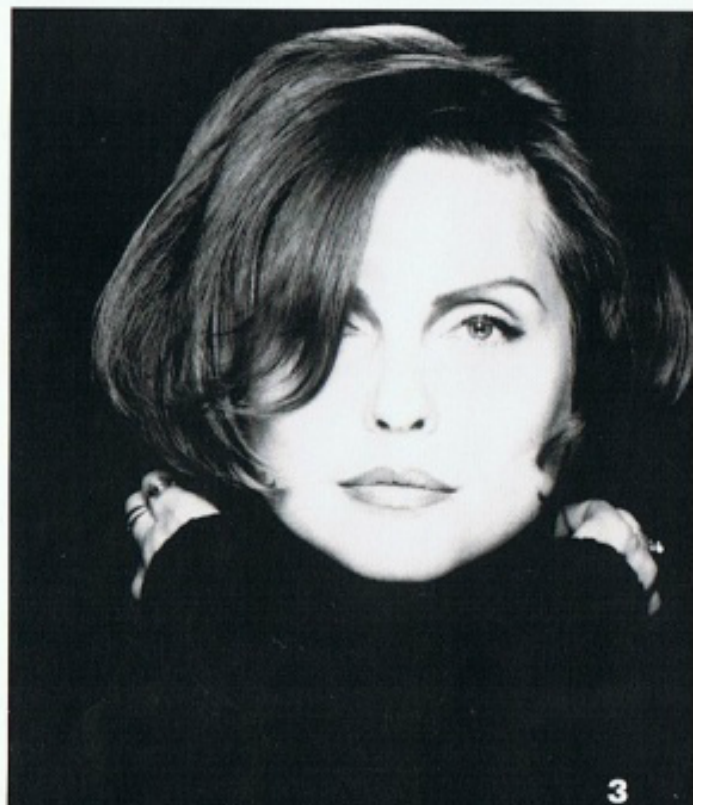


£22 £18 £15 £12.50 £10

Deborah Harry, the legendary ex-Blondie star, and Elvis Costello join The Jazz Passengers for a spectacular launch to *Meltdown 95*. Drawing on the great tradition of the Art Ensemble of Chicago, Sun Ra's Arkestra, Louis Armstrong's Hot Five, Fats Waller and the Marx Brothers, The Jazz Passengers have forged a potent combination of music and comedy that has taken them from cult status at New York's Knitting Factory to stages worldwide.

Deborah Harry's career has consistently embodied the unique, the innovative and the unusual, exploiting her gift for live performance to the full and, in addition to an on-going solo career, she has appeared in such intriguing guises as performance artist, poet and actress. This will be the first time that Deborah has appeared on-stage in Europe with the Jazz Passengers and the first time ever that they have shared a stage with Elvis Costello.

Support comes from the young New Orleans marching band, Rebirth Brass Band, together with the mighty forces of percussion giants Afro Blok.





Saturday 24 June
National Film Theatre

Celluloid Meltdown

Costello presents a day of his favourite music movies at the NFT

NFT1, 10am

Thelonius Monk: Straight No Chaser + Sevillanas

A double bill of two excellent, but very different documentaries. *Straight No Chaser* is an enthralling archival film about the life and work of legendary jazz musician and composer, Thelonius Monk. *Sevillanas* is the most popular dance in the flamenco tradition and the title of Carlos Saura's impressive dance documentary.



NFT 1, 8pm

Music Out of Film

Marc Ribot *guitar* and
Keith Tippett *piano*

Brilliant American guitarist Marc Ribot performs a live set of his own new soundtrack to cult '20's Russian constructivist sci-fi film *Aelita Queen of Mars*. Keith Tippett, a leading figure on the avant-jazz scene and himself no stranger to working in film, will be performing a live, improvised solo set on prepared piano, to several wonderful and rarely seen short animated films by the Polish-Lithuanian film-maker Wladyslaw Starewicz.

*Presented by SBC in association with
Serious Speakout*

NFT1, 1pm

The Guardian Interview with Elvis Costello

*Costello in conversation with Adrian
Wootton*

The secrets of his series of fleeting film performances will be revealed alongside a screening of *Tom Thumb*, a new adaptation illustrated by Tim Gabon and featuring the voice of John Cleese and music by Costello.

NFT1, 3pm

A Hard Day's Night

Seminal drama documentary made at the height of Beatlemania which follows the band around during one frantic day.

NFT2, 4.45pm

This is Spinal Tap

Splendidly inventive spoof about the gross antics of a past-it British heavy metal band on their chaotic comeback tour.

NFT1, 11pm

Duck Soup

Classic satirical slapstick from the greatest comic trio of the all - the Marx Brothers.

**Tickets to all films and *Music
Out of Film* are £4.35 each,
available from the NFT
on 0171 928 3232**

Tickets for *Music Out of Film* are also
available from the Royal Festival Hall
Box office on 0171 928 8800

Saturday 24 June
Chelsfield Room
RFH ① 10am-4pm

Songwriting workshop

Elvis Costello, John Woolrich from the Composers Ensemble and other artists featured in the Meltdown Festival lead a day-long workshop focusing on the skills of songwriting.

£20, £12 concessions *Limited availability*

Sunday 25 June
Purcell Room
RFH ③ 6.30pm

Waterloo Sunset

Composers Ensemble

Brahms	Es träumte mir Op. 57 No. 3
Costello	The Trouble with Dreams (soprano sax version)
Shostakovich	Prelude Op. 87, No. 23
Wilson arr. Woolrich	Don't Talk (put your head on my shoulder)
Scarlatti	Sonata K. 380
Brahms arr. Woolrich	Ophelia songs
B Strayhorn	Blood Count
Liszt	Wanderers Nachtlied
J Renbourn	Moon Song
Shostakovich	Prelude Op. 87, No. 22
Costello	The Trouble with Dreams (vocal version)
Wolf	Alles endet, was entstehet
Davies arr. Woolrich	Waterloo Sunset

A programme proposed by Costello and developed by John Woolrich (artistic director of Composers Ensemble) with the theme of melancholy.

The Composers Ensemble are a ground-breaking group of musicians dedicated to new music; they have commissioned and premiered over 150 new works by composers as diverse as Harrison Birtwistle, Michael Nyman, Judith Weir, John Tavener as well as Elvis Costello. Like Costello, the song in all its

forms is at the core of much of their work. Resident at the Dartington Summer School, a veritable hotbed of extraordinary musical collaboration, they met and developed a close synergy with Costello and the Brodsky Quartet. Tonight's programme is an eclectic mix of both classical and popular music - listen without prejudice!

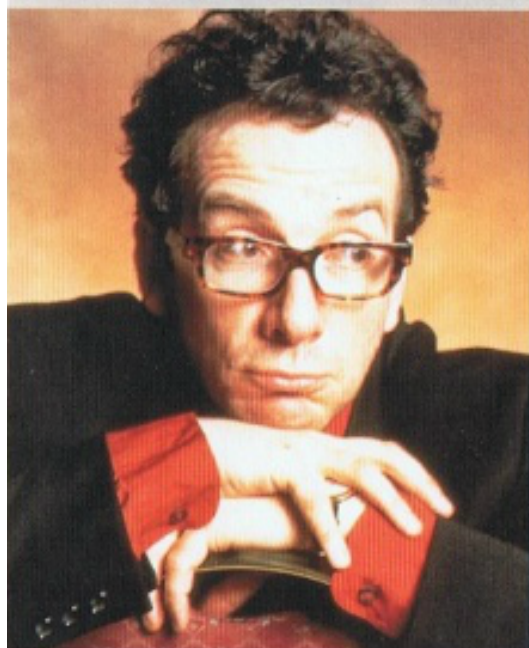
£10, £8

Ticket admits to both 6.30pm and 10pm performances (see page 6).

Sunday 25 June
Queen Elizabeth Hall
RFH ② 8.30pm

Old Flowers in New Dirt

Elvis Costello with guests Bill Frisell,
The Fairfield Four and Steve Nieve



The first of three rare opportunities to see Elvis Costello with a variety of collaborators in this intimate space.

Purcell Room RFH ③
10pm

After a brief opening set by Costello, the first half is given over to a rare performance by the Fairfield Four. One of the most influential gospel singing groups to come out of the southern states of America in the last 100 years, the Fairfield Four were a veritable supergroup of the 1940s, and broadcast five days a week for ten years, sending their own brand of jubilee singing into virtually every home in the United States.

Part Two opens with a specially arranged collaboration between Elvis Costello and Bill Frisell (see also page 8),

in arrangements and new co-written compositions. Costello is then joined by his colleague, Attractions keyboard-player Steve Nieve, for a set of piano songs new and old, including the first performance of their co-composition *Lesson in Cruelty*.

In the finale Costello and Nieve are joined by the Fairfield Four for a surprise collaboration hinted at in the title of the concert.

£18.50 £15 £12

Composers Ensemble

Musicians and composers have scoured their childhood memories for a popular song, important to them, which they have then arranged from memory for the Composers Ensemble. Songs by the Beach Boys, Madness, Aretha Franklin and the Pet Shop Boys among others will be given a new slant with this unique and intriguing concept.

£10 £8

Ticket admits to both 6.30pm and 10pm performances

Monday 26 June
Queen Elizabeth Hall
RFH ② 7.45pm

The Brodsky Quartet

Pawel Szymanski
Five Pieces
John Woolrich
Death of King Renaud
Joseph Haydn
Quartet Op 54 No. 2
Michael Thomas
Harold in Islington
Andy Rushton
*Work for Tabla and
String Quartet*
Peter Sculthorpe
Quartet No. 11
Dimitri Shostakovich
Quartet No. 8

A young and dynamic quartet which has played together since its members' early childhood, The Brodsky Quartet has established itself as a top flight international ensemble with busy schedule of performance and recording world-wide. In the spirit of *Meltdown 95*, they venture into all areas of music new and old; they were, of course, collaborators with Costello on *The Juliet Letters*, the song sequence for string quartet and voice, and have recently been working with Björk on her forthcoming album.



They are unique in that they perform standing up – it gives them more freedom – and have even been known to dance on occasion.

Their programme includes music by several close associates of the quartet: Peter Sculthorpe and John Woolrich, who they first met at the Dartington Summer School, and Michael Thomas who is the quartet's first violinist. It also includes Shostakovich whose music they have performed on several critically acclaimed CDs.

£12.50 £10

***RNIB Music Day
Performance
Foyer,
Queen Elizabeth
Hall RFH ②
7pm**

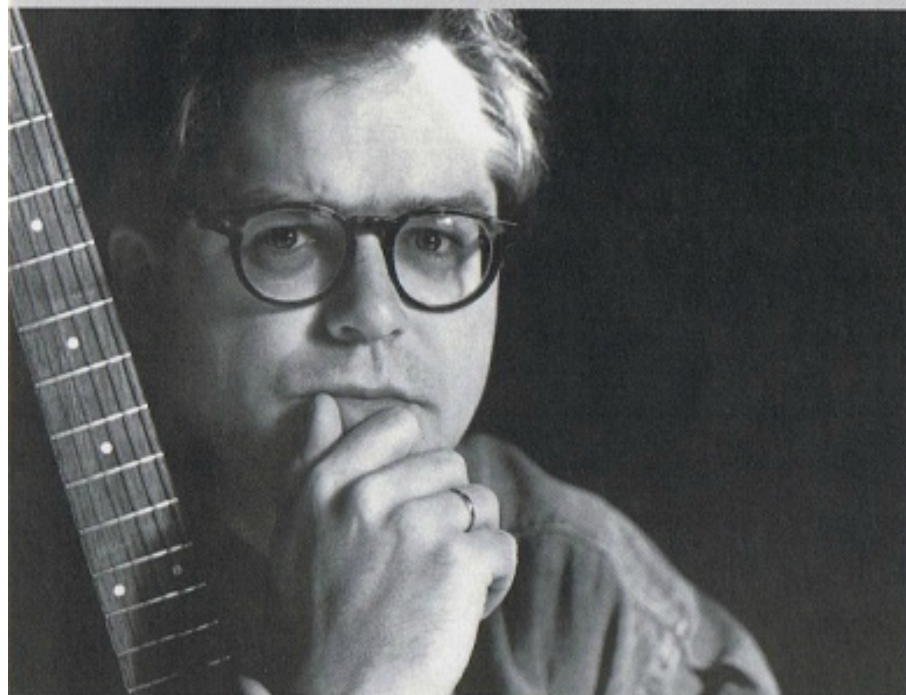
A performance of a new composition developed by 120 visually impaired children from all over the country as part of a day-long workshop. Given a unique chance to work creatively with professional composers and musicians, they have used some of the music performed by the Brodsky Quartet in tonight's concert as a focal point.

Free admission

* Royal National Institute for the Blind

Tuesday 27 June
Queen Elizabeth Hall
RFH ② 7.45pm

Bill Frisell Trio



**“Soft-spoken
and self-
effacing in
conversation
he apparently
breathes in
lungfuls of raw
fire when he
straps on his
guitar”**

Spin

Bill Frisell returns to the South Bank following his sold-out encounter with the films of Buster Keaton last Autumn. Perhaps the most charismatic of guitarists today, his music reworks shades of country music, blues, rock and jazz in a uniquely personal musical landscape. Frisell has ventured far beyond the realms of many of his contemporaries, playing with Marianne Faithfull, John Zorn, Ginger Baker

and Don Byron, as well as leading his own groups throughout the world. Having just completed a wildly successful project for symphony orchestra, he returns to London with a rare solo set, followed by the UK debut of a new trio, featuring trumpeter Ron Miles and violinist Eyvind Kang.

£12.50 £10

Presented by Serious Speakout
in association with SBC.

Wednesday 28 June
Purcell Room RFH ③
7.15pm

Steve Nieve

Solo

Renowned as keyboard player with Elvis Costello's Attractions (and leader of Jonathan Ross' house band), Steve Nieve is also a composer in his own right. Tonight's rare live appearance showcases his piano music in a style which may be surprising to those who know him only as a rock and roller.

£10 £8

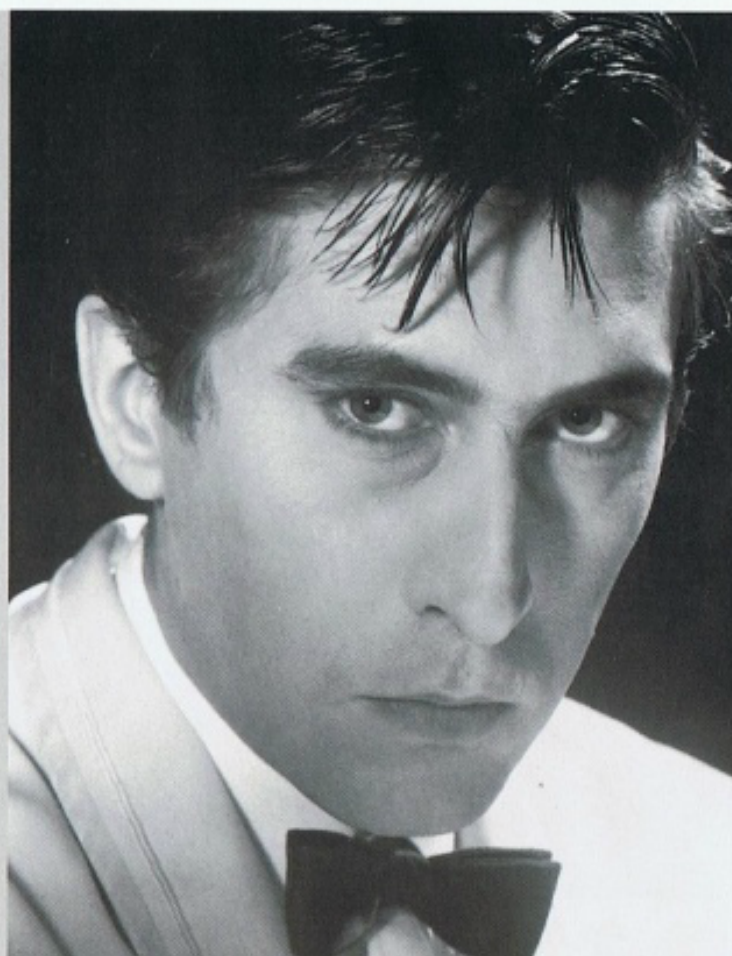
Free Foyer Event

Tuesday 27 June
Foyer,
Queen Elizabeth Hall
RFH ② 6.40pm

BJ Cole's Transparent Music Trio

Foyer performance of
transcriptions for pedal
steel guitar with cello and
harp, featuring Satie,
Debussy, Copland and
original compositions

Free admission



Wednesday 28 June
Queen Elizabeth Hall
RFH ② 9pm

'Punishing Kiss'

Elvis Costello and
The Brodsky Quartet
Diego Masson *conductor*



The Brodsky Quartet and Elvis Costello feature in the first half, playing selections from *The Juliet Letters*, their arrangements of songs by Kurt Weill, Brian Wilson, Jerome Kern and Tom Waits, as well as new compositions by the Quartet's Michael Thomas and arrangements of other Costello songs.

The ensemble is augmented to an 11-piece band with wind and brass players for Part II. Both rare & familiar Costello

titles feature in arrangements by the Brodsky Quartet's Michael Thomas and Paul Cassidy, Steve Nieve, Anúna's Michael McGlynn, Bill Frisell and Costello himself. Other highlights include Clive Langer's new arrangement of the song *Shipbuilding*, and the first performance of Costello's *Punishing Kiss* (a song composed for the film *Short Cuts*).

£18.50 £15 £12

Thursday 29 June
Royal Festival Hall
RFH 1 7.30pm



The London Philharmonic

Gunther Schuller *conductor*
Alexander Balanescu *violin*
Martin Robertson *saxophone*
The Night Creatures Band

Costello *New Work*
world premiere
Stalling *Cartoon Music*
Herrmann *Taxi Driver Suite*
Turnage *Drowned Out*
Ellington *Night Creatures*
and *Anatomy of a Murder*
Korngold *Violin Concerto*

A concert with strong cinematic connections devised by Costello and featuring the first performance of his own orchestral work. Alex Balanescu, leader of the Balanescu Quartet, plays the Korngold *Violin Concerto* and acclaimed saxophonist Martin Robertson performs Bernard Herrman's *Taxi Driver Suite*. The evening boasts a further exclusive in the shape of the Night Creatures Band, a recreation of the classic Duke Ellington 20-piece swing band, who will lead the orchestra in Ellington's *Night Creatures* and will play his score for Hitchcock's *Anatomy of a Murder*.

£16 £12 £8 £6



Royal Festival Hall
RFH 1 12.30pm

Sir John Cass Key
Stage 3 Project

Six classes of pupils from South London Schools perform music composed during a ground breaking project with the London Sinfonietta. Pupils have been inspired by the music of Java, Bali and the American minimalist composer Steve Reich.

Admission free with a ticket to the London Philharmonic's 1pm concert.



Royal Festival Hall
RFH 1 1pm

At the Movies
Concert for 11-16s

David Angus
conductor
Martin Robertson
saxophone

John Williams
Superman; Herrmann
Taxi Driver Suite;
Stalling *Cartoon Music*;
John Williams *Star Wars*.

£3.50

For group discounts and information on the accompanying teachers' research pack call 0171 833 2744

Thursday 29
and Friday 30 June
Purcell Room RFH ③
10pm

The Wooden Indians

Guest presenter Irwin Chusid

Reckless Nights and Turkish Twilights: The Life & Work of Raymond Scott

A celebration of the life and work of the man who made cartoons swing. The natural link between Bugs

Bunny and the Psychedelic Shack, Scott was a glorious innovator whose music was so curiously unique

and indefatigably cheerful it has provided the ideal background for generations of cartoon music from Warner Brothers to Ren and Stimpy. Featuring film, cartoons and the wonderful Wooden Indians - the world's only exponents of Scott's music.



A special presentation comes from Irwin Chusid the authority on the life and work of Raymond Scott.

£10 £8

Free Foyer Event

Thursday 29 June
Main Foyer,
Royal Festival Hall RFH ①
6pm

Angell Piano Trio

Highly talented piano trio present a pre-concert performance of works by Panufnik, Torke & Metcalfe prior to The London Philharmonic's Meltdown performance.



Friday 30 June
Queen Elizabeth Hall RFH ②
7.45pm

Anúna & The Sabri Brothers

Ronan Browne *pipes*

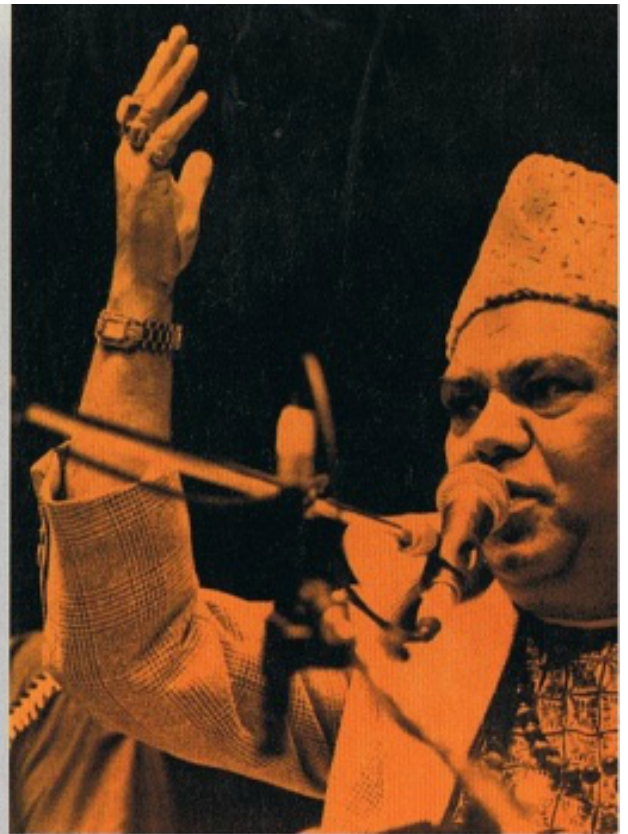
"The Sabris are an experience with a capital E."

John Rockwell, New York Times

An astounding meeting of spiritual music from two ends of the world.

Founded in 1993, Anúna have recently found spectacular success with the top ten single *Riverdance*. The group's repertoire spans twelve centuries of Ireland's rich and turbulent history. Their live show is one of their greatest strengths, combining the raw emotion of ancient music with the elaborate and fantastical original compositions of their director Michael McGlynn.

For the past thirty years the stunning virtuosity, tremendous power and sensitive



beauty of the voices of The Sabri Brothers have mesmerised audiences world-wide. The principal exponents of Qawwali, the devotional music of the Sufi sect who are the mystics of the Islamic faith, the brother's musical lineage stretches back over many centuries, their vocation passed down through generations of great musicians.

£12.50 £10



Saturday 1 July
Queen Elizabeth Hall
RFH ② 3pm

Moondog

Featuring John Harle,
Danny Thompson,
John Lenehan, London Brass
and London Saxophonic

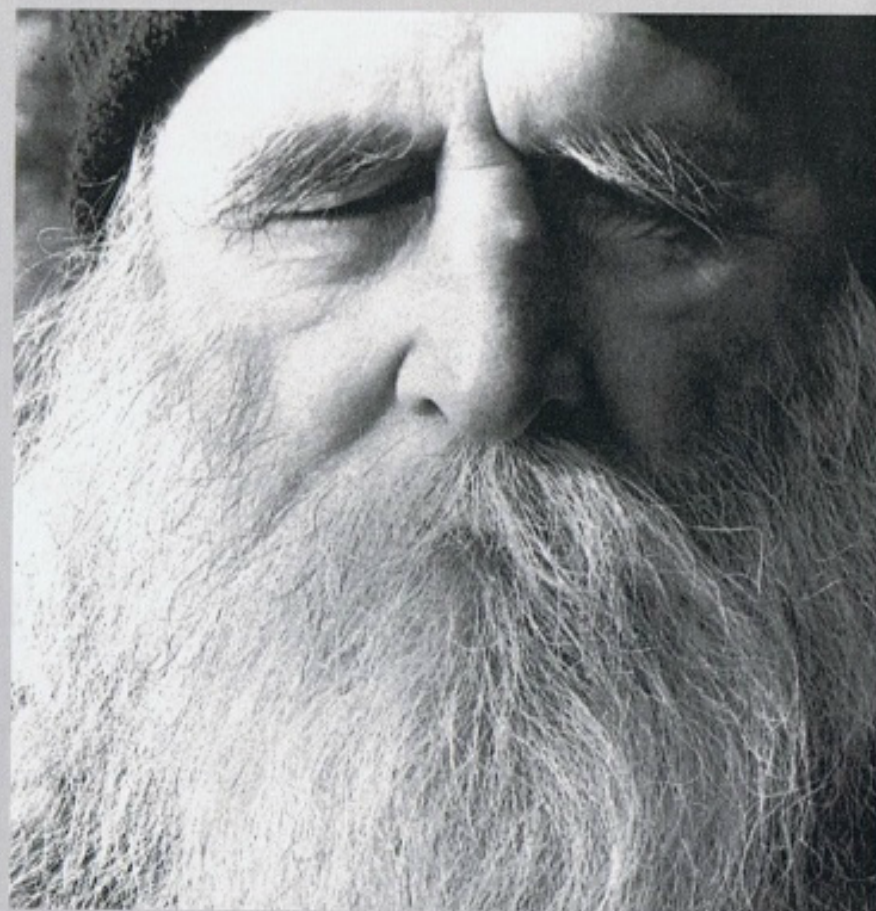
Part 1

Chick Corea
Children's Songs
Machaut
*Lai from Le Renegade
de Fortuné*
Dowland
Song Cycle
Sorrow Stay
Flow My Tears
Can She Excuse
What If I Never
Speed
Nyman
The Ariel Songs
Birtwistle
Dinah and Nick's
Love Song
Perotin
Viderunt Omnes

Part 2 Moondog & guests

At once one of the most influential figures in recent contemporary music and one of its most elusive, Louis Hardin, or Moondog, is the person for whom the term 'huge cult following' should unquestionably have been invented.

Cited by a generation of composers from



Andriessen to Zorn as a major influence, Moondog's history is the stuff of legend: plucked (literally) from the streets of New York, he gained a deservedly huge following in the late 60's. Moondog has continued to work to no-one's agenda but his own, producing a body of work which uniquely and

effortlessly combines 30's swing and contemporary 'classical'.

Combined with a first half which showcases the hugely eclectic work of saxophonist John Harle, this is, in the truest sense of the word, a one-off event.

£12.50 £10

Saturday 1 July
Queen Elizabeth Hall RFH 2
8pm

The Song

Part 1

June Tabor

Part 2

Flow my Tears

Patricia Rozario
Jeff Buckley
Elvis Costello
Michael McGlynn
Fretwork
Composers Ensemble

Part 3

Glad to be Unhappy

June Tabor
Elvis Costello
Jeff Buckley
Steve Nieve
Marc Ribot



Concluding *Meltdown 95*, an epic concert exploring The Song in all its shapes and forms.

Part 1 is a set from June Tabor, the diva of traditional English song. In Part 2 an unorthodox and unique combination of performers share the platform performing songs by Dowland, Schubert, John Woolrich, Mahler, Purcell and John Tavener. The Composers Ensemble, and Fretwork extend beyond their familiar musical periods, providing accompaniment. Costello also performs his recent SBC commission *Put Away Forbidden Playthings* written for Fretwork. The tone of Part 3 is defined by the Rodgers and Hart song *Glad to be Unhappy*, epitomising the beautiful melancholy of this final set.

£18.50 £15 £12



Elvis Costello's New album 'Kojak Variety' available 15 May

Bookings and Information

0171 928 8800

10am - 9pm every day
or by fax on 0171 401 8834

By post

Box Office, Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 8XX

Cheques payable to South Bank Centre.

Please enclose a first-class s.a.e. with your application or add 30p to your total.

Meltdown offer

Book 3 or more of the concerts below and **save 20%**

Book all 5 **save 20%** and receive a **free** Meltdown programme book.

- 23 June The Jazz Passengers
with Deborah Harry
and Elvis Costello
- 25 June Composers Ensemble
- 26 June Brodsky Quartet
- 29 June The London Philharmonic
- 30 June Anúna
and the Sabri Brothers

Offer subject to availability

All European flights supplied by Air UK



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