

# BERLIN IN THE '20s & '30s

Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall  
Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 March

*The Rest Is Noise* is a year-long festival that digs deep into 20th-century history to reveal the influences on art in general and classical music in particular, inspired by Alex Ross' book *The Rest Is Noise*. We have brought together some of the world's finest orchestras and soloists to perform many of the most significant works of the 20th century. We reveal why these pieces were written and how they transformed the musical language of the modern world. If you're new to 20th-century music, then this is your time to start exploring. There has never been a festival like this.

Jude Kelly, Artistic Director, Southbank Centre

## BERLIN IN THE '20S AND '30S: CABARET, PARANOIA AND FASCISM 1920 – 1933

During the 14 years of the Weimar Republic, Germany lurched from chaos to fragile democracy and towards the catastrophe that was to come. In contrast to the prosperity of Paris, the Berlin of the 1920s was ravaged by financial turmoil and political disorder. The Weimar Republic, forged in the aftermath of the First World War and the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II, was full of coups and counterrevolutions, playing host to Communists, Social Democrats and nationalists. After the catastrophic hyperinflation that saw Germans pushing wheelbarrows full of million-Mark

notes through the streets, a period of stabilisation also saw the ominous rise of the Nazi party and their terrifying stormtroopers.

For a brief moment, however, Berlin was a city of possibility and excitement. The all-night city danced to the biting satire and seductive decadence of the cabaret theatres where art, fashion, classical music, jazz and musical theatre all rubbed shoulders. However as the darkest chapter of the 20th century drew near, many of the city's artistic innovators would soon be forced to leave.

**All sessions are of a limited capacity and seating is allocated on a first come first served basis.**

The next stop in *The Rest Is Noise* is *America, a new world discovers its voice*, from Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 March. See festival brochure for full listings, or visit [southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise](http://southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise)

### Foyles Bookshop: *Continue the Journey*

Throughout *The Rest Is Noise* festival, Foyles book stall are stocking books by many of the writers featured in the programme, as well as books which provide a historical and cultural overview of the period.

### *The Rest Is Noise* festival film lounge

Catch a rolling programme of two classic feature films of the era and an excerpt from a documentary on composer and educator Carl Orff's collaborator Gunild Keetman.

Sunley Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall, Level 3 Green Side

**Sign up to the journey email at [southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise](http://southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise)  
for further content and to delve deeper into the festival**

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is inspired by  
Alex Ross's book

THE  
REST  
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NOISE



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## SATURDAY 2 MARCH

10.15am – 11.15 am The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>Breakfast with Kurt Weill: <i>The Threepenny Opera</i></b> Grab a coffee and delve inside the workings of some of the music behind <i>The Rest Is Noise</i> festival in this fun and practical session. Led by composer and animator John Browne, with Southbank Centre Artist-in-Residence and Voicelab Director, Mary King.
11.30am – 12.30pm Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>Frederick Taylor: Keynote Lecture</b> Germany entered the 20th century united and strong. By the 1930s, scarred by war and unemployment, Germany embraced National Socialism. A decade later, Berlin lay in ruins. Frederick Taylor discusses these tumultuous years. <b>Includes Q and A</b>
1pm – 2pm The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>Listen to This: A listening guide to the weekend's music</b> Gillian Moore, Southbank Centre's Head of Classical Music, talks about and plays recorded extracts of music in <i>Berlin in the '20s &amp; '30s</i> , including Weill, Schoenberg and Hindemith. Followed by a performance of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's New Horizons project at 2.10pm.
Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>Brecht's Composers</b> Composer Dominic Muldowney discusses Bertolt Brecht, a central artistic figure of Weimar Germany, and the music collaborations he made. <b>Includes Q and A</b>
Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall	<b>The Dark Charisma of Adolf Hitler: Episode 1</b> With the help of testimony from those who lived through the times, film archive, colour home movies and new documentary footage, this recent BBC film reveals how Hitler went from a 'peculiar' nobody to Chancellor and Führer of the German people.
Level 4 Green Bar at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Noise Bites: A whistle-stop tour through history</b> A quick journey through the key artists, social movements and scientific breakthroughs of an era. Topics explored in this session include <b>Nosferatu</b> , <b>New objectivity</b> , <b>Zeitoper</b> and <b>The Modern Sanitorium</b> with a range of speakers and performers.
2.30pm – 3.30pm Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>Alex Ross: Why and how did music become so politicised</b> Alex Ross gives his second keynote talk of <i>The Rest Is Noise</i> festival, focusing on the onset of Nazism and the shift towards intensely political music in the '20s and '30s, and broadening the focus to look at parallel developments in America and the Soviet Union.
2.30pm – 3pm Blue Room, Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Kurt Weill: From Time to Time</b> A short film made by Deborah May for Southbank Centre in 2000, marking the centenary of the composer's birth and featuring interviews with two people who attended the world premiere of <i>The Threepenny Opera</i> in 1928.
4pm – 5pm Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>Mark Miodownik: Modern Materials for Modern Times</b> In the 1930s modern materials entered mass production. Mark Miodownik, Professor of Materials and Society at University College London, gives a keynote talk on the scientific developments which led to this revolution, and the impact of nylon. <b>Includes Q and A</b>
The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>Listen to This: A listening guide to the weekend's music</b> Please see 1pm. Preceded by a performance from the London Philharmonic Orchestra's New Horizons project at 3.30pm.
Level 4 Blue Bar at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Ben Schofield: Weimar Legacies</b> Ben Schofield gives this illustrated talk which looks at how the streets of Weimar Berlin influenced the cultural production of the era – a culture which is still influential today. <b>Includes Q and A</b>
Level 4 Green Bar at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Noise Bites: A whistle-stop tour through history</b> A quick journey through the key artists, social movements and scientific breakthroughs of an era. Topics explored in this session include <b>Albert Speer</b> , <b>Laban and his school</b> , <b>sulphur drugs</b> and <b>Otto Dix</b> , with a range of speakers.
4pm – 5.15pm Blue Room, Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall	<b>People on Sunday</b> This 1930 silent drama follows some Berlin residents on a summer's day. This remarkable depiction of life before Hitler became Chancellor was scripted by Billy Wilder.

5.30pm – 6.30pm Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>John Gray: Nazism and the Myth of Progress</b> John Gray is one of the most significant thinkers of our time. Focusing on the inter-war period, Gray looks at the work of Joseph Roth, Stefan Zweig and Arthur Koestler and how the themes of nationality, memory and terror were fundamental to their work. <b>Includes Q&amp;A.</b>
Level 4 Blue Bar at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Ben Schofield: Weimar Legacies</b> Please see 4pm.
5.30pm – 6pm The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Meow Meow and Weill</b> Patrick Bailey interviews Meow Meow and a young singer from the <i>Mahagonny Songspiel</i> cast on Kurt Weill's Legacy.
6pm & 9.45pm The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Mahagonny Songspiel</b> A free concert performance of Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's first collaboration, given by London Philharmonic Orchestra's Foyle Future Firsts.
6.30pm – 7pm Blue Room, Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Kurt Weill: From Time to Time</b> Please see 2.30pm.
7pm – 8pm Blue Room, Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall	<b>The Dark Charisma of Adolf Hitler: Episode 1</b> Please see 1pm.
7.30pm – 9pm Royal Festival Hall	<b>*London Philharmonic Orchestra: The Threepenny Opera</b> *Not included in the Day or Weekend Pass. RETURNS ONLY
8.30pm – 9.45pm Blue Room, Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall	<b>People on Sunday</b> Please see 4pm.

## **SUNDAY 3 MARCH**

11am – 12.30pm The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Emil and the Detectives</b> This 1931 film tells the story of a young boy named Emil whose money is stolen on a train to Berlin and the adventures that follow. This family-friendly classic of the period has a screenplay by Billy Wilder, adapted from the Erich Käster novel.
11.45am – 12.45pm Level 4 Blue Bar at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Yvonne Sherratt: Hitler's Philosophers</b> Hitler saw himself as a 'philosopher-leader' and gained the support of many intellectuals. Sherratt uncovers ambition, violence and betrayal. <b>Includes Q&amp;A</b>
Level 4 Green Bar at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Berlin in Hollywood</b> Ian Christie, a leading historian of 20th-century film, tells the story of German émigré filmmakers who established themselves in America as the Nazis swept to power. Including legendary names such as Marlene Dietrich, Fritz Lang and Karl Freund. <b>Includes Q&amp;A</b>
St Paul's Roof Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Noise Bites: An intense whistle-stop tour through history</b> These high-energy sessions offer a crash course in history and the people who made it. Topics explored in this session include <b>Marlene Dietrich, the swastika, gay culture</b> and <b>George Grosz</b> , with a range of speakers and performers.
The Weston Roof Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall, Level 6 Green Side	<b>A Beginner's Guide to Serialism</b> Jonathan Cross of Oxford University explores the serialism method of composition which primarily began with Schoenberg's 12-tone technique. <b>Includes Q and A</b>
1pm – 2pm Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>*Karim Said: 12 Tone Piano</b> Hear Schoenberg's explorations of this idiosyncratic sound world. Introduced by Sara Mohr-Pietsch. *Not included in the Day or Weekend Pass. Tickets available from the Ticket Office from £10.
1.30pm – 2.30pm The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>Brecht Theatre</b> Playwright David Edgar joins actress Charlotte Randle and Jude Kelly to discuss their relationship to Bertolt Brecht and his influence. <b>Includes Q&amp;A.</b>

1.30pm – 2.30pm  
St Paul's Roof Pavilion at  
Royal Festival Hall

**Noise Bites: An intense whistle-stop tour through history**

These high-energy sessions offer a crash course in history and the people who made it. Topics in this session include **Walter Benjamin, Volkswagen, Hitler Youth and Hyperinflation**, with a range of speakers.

Spirit Level at  
Royal Festival Hall

**Deutschland Dada**

This 1969 documentary explores the contributions of German artists to the early 20th century Dadaist movement, which rejected previous convention and delighted in nihilistic satire in painting, sculpture and literature.

The Weston Roof Pavilion  
at Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 6 Green Side

**Visual Arts: Satire, Realism & Responses to the Regime**

Ruth Hemus takes on a journey through Dada and the visual arts, looking at how artists such as Hannah Höch, Raoul Hausmann and John Heartfield challenged the existing bourgeois order in the inter-war period. **Includes Q&A**

3pm – 4pm  
Purcell Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

**Brecht's Poetry: Readings and poems sung with piano accompaniment**

Brecht's great poems have lit up theatre for every generation since they were written. Chaired by Karen Leeder, a specialist in German poetry, alongside poets Bernard O'Donoghue and Jamie McKendrick.

The Weston Roof Pavilion  
at Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 6 Green Side

**Christopher Isherwood: Goodbye to Berlin**

Novelist Katherine Bucknell in discussion with biographer Peter Parker and actor Harry Melling. Published in 1938, *Goodbye to Berlin* introduced Sally Bowles. **Includes Q&A**

3pm – 4.10pm  
Spirit Level at  
Royal Festival Hall

**Berlin: Symphony of a Metropolis**

A classic of experimental cinema, this 1927 silent film by Walter Ruttmann is a visual symphony in five movements, paying homage to the metropolis of Berlin, to the pulse of modern life and to the idea of the city as one big social organism.

4.30pm – 5.30pm  
Purcell Room at Queen  
Elizabeth Hall

**Lisa Appignanesi: Cabaret Talk**

Lisa Appignanesi presents the cultural history of cabaret. Cabaret found joyful expression in Berlin in the 1920s and '30s but its roots go back to the Chat Noir in Paris in the 1880s. Lisa Appignanesi is a writer and critic whose books include *The Cabaret*. **Includes Q&A**

The Weston Roof Pavilion  
at Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 6 Green Side

**Visual Arts: Satire, Realism & Responses to the Regime**

Please see 1.30pm.

4.30pm – 5.40pm  
Spirit Level at  
Royal Festival Hall

**Kuhle Wampe**

Conceived and written by Bertolt Brecht, this 1931 propaganda film is an extraordinary cultural product of its time, depicting the plight of the working class.

5.45pm – 6.30pm  
The Clore Ballroom at  
Royal Festival Hall

**Round Up**

Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of Southbank Centre, leads a round-up session looking at the themes of the weekend, and invites your feedback about the festival. **Includes Q&A**

6.30pm – 7.40pm  
Blue Room, Spirit Level at  
Royal Festival Hall

**Berlin: Symphony of a Metropolis**

Please see 3pm.

7.30pm  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

**\*Kurt Weill's Seven Deadly Sins**

Music from composers forced to emigrate from Nazi Germany. Performed by BBC Concert Orchestra, Andre de Ridder and Shara Worden of My Brightest Diamond. \*Not included in the Day or Weekend Pass. Tickets available from the ticket office from £12.

8pm – c.10.10pm  
The Clore Ballroom at  
Royal Festival Hall

**Cabaret**

One of the most iconic films to portray Weimar Berlin, Bob Fosse's eight Oscar-winning film adaptation of the stage musical is a must-see. Liza Minnelli makes a career-defining performance as wayward singer Sally Bowles in this sinister classic movie.

The next stop in *The Rest Is Noise is America*, Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 March.  
See your festival brochure for more information.

Principal orchestra  
partner: