

# POLITICS AND SPIRITUALITY IN THE LATE 20TH CENTURY

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

---

*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**

---

## POLITICS AND SPIRITUALITY IN THE LATE 20TH CENTURY

After Stalin's death in 1953, life behind the Iron Curtain slowly began to change – and by the 1970s the Soviet Union under Brezhnev was beginning to modernise. Symbols of the West such as jeans and rock music became popular in Soviet Russia, signalling a new era of cautious thawing of Cold War relations. In the West, the 1970s and '80s were fast-paced decades – first a recession then economic boom years, where advertising and communications technology rapidly accelerated the pace of modern life. To counter this materialism, some composers offered a return to spiritual values, and others resorted to overtly political music. In the UK, war-damaged buildings remained empty and worsening economic conditions inspired new radical

politics. Much of the religious music came from the Soviet Union and its satellite states, where religious belief had been marginalised under the official state atheism. More surprising were the commercial possibilities in this sacred music. The simple, consonant songs of lamentation in Henryk Górecki's Third Symphony commemorate victims of the Holocaust and unexpectedly sold over a million recordings when it was released. No composer exemplified this turn to the sacred more than Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, whose work conveys an intense and profound spirituality. Hans Werner Henze gave voice to oppressed peoples and political radicals such as Cornelius Cardew tried to sweep aside the bourgeois norms of the musical establishment.

---

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

### **Free Study Evening, Thursday 14 October, 6.30pm**

This informal evening is an opportunity to come for a free glass of wine and discuss the themes from the Politics and Spirituality and Superpower weekends. Plus experts will be on hand to answer all your questions. Topics for discussion include Philip Glass' *Music in Twelve Parts* and Gubaidulina's *Offertorium*.

### **Foyles Bookshop: *Continue the Journey***

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

**Sign up to the journey email at [southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise](https://southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise) for further content, to catch up on any talks you missed, and to explore more of the festival.**

[southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise](https://southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise)

**Follow us on Twitter @1century1year**

*The Rest Is Noise*  
is inspired by  
Alex Ross's book

THE  
REST  
IS  
NOISE

SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE

## SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER

11am – 12 noon  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### Catherine Merridale: Opening Lecture

Catherine Merridale, one of the leading historians of the Soviet Union, gives this opening keynote lecture on Soviet society in the 1970s and 1980s, as Cold War relations began to thaw and Western consumerism began to erode Communist idealism. Catherine Merridale is the author of *Ivan's War* and *Red Fortress: History and Illusion in the Kremlin*.

---

12.30pm – 1.30pm  
The Front Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### Noise Bites

A whistle-stop tour of the key artists, movements and political breakthroughs of the era. With 15 minutes per topic, the need-to-know subjects include **Diamanda Galás** and the paintings of **Georg Baselitz and Anselm Kiefer**.

Purcell Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### Gubaidulina String Quartets

Sofia Gubaidulina's String Quartets Nos.3 & 4 are performed by the Ligeti String Quartet, in the presence of the composer herself, who will introduce the works.

Blue Room, Spirit Level at  
Royal Festival Hall

### The Symphony of Sorrowful Songs

Widely acknowledged to be Tony Palmer's masterpiece, this film of Henryck Górecki's Symphony No.3 featuring Dawn Upshaw, David Zinman and London Sinfonietta was described as 'a major work of art in itself' (*The Guardian*).

St Paul's Roof Pavilion  
at Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 6 Blue Side

### Cold War Poetry

Wisława Szymborska and Zbigniew Herbert were the leading lights of a remarkable generation of Polish poets whose work reached its zenith during the 1970s and 1980s. Poets Elaine Feinstein and George Szirtes reflect on their writing, which though very different in style and diction, similarly bears the weight of history and ideology. This event is chaired by writer and translator Karen Leeder.

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

### Music and Spirituality in Eastern Europe: Adrian Thomas

Professor Adrian Thomas explores sacred music behind the Iron Curtain, and how this was inextricably linked with the political suppression of religion. It became a sign of individual defiance as well as of a powerful, anti-communist alliance between composers and the church.

Sunley Pavilion at  
Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 3 Green Side

### Dekalog 1

'I am the Lord, thou shalt have no other gods before me.'

A masterpiece of contemporary cinema, these ten one-hour films by the acclaimed Polish director Krzysztof Kieślowski are powerful and profound stories of love and loss, faith and fear. Originally made for Polish television in 1988, each episode is inspired by one of the Ten Commandments.

12.30pm Episode 1; 2.30pm Episode 2; 4pm Episode 3; 7pm Episode 4; 8.15pm Episode 5; 9.30pm Episode 6

---

2.30pm – 3.30pm  
Purcell Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### Sofia Gubaidulina

A rare opportunity to hear Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina discuss spirituality in her music and influences throughout her life. She is interviewed by Dr Marina Frolova-Walker, Director of Studies in Music at Clare College, Cambridge.

The Front Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### Noise Bites

A whistle-stop tour of the key artists, movements and political breakthroughs of the era. With 15 minutes per topic, the need-to-know subjects include **Graceland** by **Paul Simon** and the painter **Gerhard Richter**.

Blue Room, Spirit Level  
at Royal Festival Hall

### On Soundtrack: Penderecki & Górecki

The utterly contrasting music of two of Poland's most prolific contemporary composers became an ubiquitous feature of and influence over American film music, bringing an avant-garde musical language to the masses. Take a whistle-stop journey through some classic film clips of the 1980s and 1990s featuring music by the two composers, including *The Shining*, *Wild At Heart*, and much more.

St Paul's Roof Pavilion  
at Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 6 Blue Side

### Listen to This

Oxford professor Jonathan Cross talks about and plays recorded extracts of music in this episode of *The Rest Is Noise* festival, including Schnittke, Gubaidulina, Andriessen and Messiaen.

2.30pm – 3.30pm  
The Weston Roof Pavilion  
at Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 6 Green Side

### **Art Behind the Iron Curtain**

The Polish Radio Experimental Studio was created in Warsaw in the late 1960s and was a magnet for major figures in experimental music on both sides of the Iron Curtain including John Cage and Cornelius Cardew. In this talk David Crowley and Daniel Muzyczuk explore the close connections between experimental sound and film alongside extracts of the work.

Sunley Pavilion at  
Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 3 Green Side

### **Dekalog 2**

'Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.'

---

4pm – 5pm  
The Front Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### **How the Beatles Rocked the Kremlin**

Leslie Woodhead is a writer and broadcaster who met the Beatles in 1962 when making a film about them for Granada TV. In this event he discusses his book *How The Beatles Rocked The Kremlin*, which explores the impact and enduring influence of their music behind the Iron Curtain. The event is chaired by writer and journalist Robin Denselow.

Purcell Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### **Astrid Proll**

As a member of Germany's notorious Baader-Meinhof gang, Astrid Proll escaped Germany in the early seventies and lived undercover amongst London's alternative squatter community. At this event she discusses her life in London, where she took on an assumed identity and supported herself as a youth worker and gardener until she was discovered in 1978. Chaired by writer and journalist Andy Beckett.

St Paul's Roof Pavilion  
at Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 6 Blue Side

### **Listen to This**

Please see 2.30pm.

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

### **Music and Spirituality in Eastern Europe – Adrian Thomas**

Please see 12.30pm.

Sunley Pavilion at  
Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 3 Green Side

### **Dekalog 3**

'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.'

4pm – 5.30pm  
Blue Room, Spirit Level  
at Royal Festival Hall

### **Arvo Pärt: 24 Preludes for a Fugue**

Made in 2005, Dorian Supin's authorised documentary about composer Arvo Pärt is a portrait of precious moments recorded over three prolific years of the composer's life. The film features rehearsals, premieres, seminars, meetings and recollections, and opens a door on the inner world of one of the most spiritually intense composers of our time.

---

5.30pm – 6.30pm  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### **Alain de Botton**

Alain de Botton discusses spirituality and consumerism, central themes of the weekend, and takes questions from the audience. One of our leading philosophers, Alain de Botton's extraordinary range of writing takes in subjects including love, travel, architecture and work as part of his investigations into everyday life. Chaired by Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of Southbank Centre.

---

6pm  
Royal Festival Hall

### **Pre-concert Talk: Colour and Eternity**

The Royal Philharmonic Society explores the music of Olivier Messiaen.

6pm – 7pm  
Blue Room, Spirit Level  
at Royal Festival Hall

### **Sofia, Biography of a Violin Concerto**

This fascinating film by Jan Schmidt-Garre gets inside the making of a new work of music, from its inception, through the many stages of the creative process to its world premiere in August 2007. The film follows Sofia Gubaidulina's violin concerto No.2 and features Anne-Sophie Mutter, conductor Sir Simon Rattle and the Berliner Philharmoniker.

---

7pm – 8pm  
Sunley Pavilion at  
Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 3 Green Side

### **Dekalog 4**

'Honour thy father and thy mother.'

7.30pm – c.9.30pm  
Royal Festival Hall

**London Philharmonic Orchestra: From the Canyons to the Stars\***

Messiaen's opulent music depicts the vibrant colour and spiritual grandeur of the American West.

\*Not included in the Saturday or Weekend Passes: tickets available from the Ticket Office from £9.

---

7.30pm – 8.30pm  
Blue Room, Spirit Level at  
Royal Festival Hall

**On Soundtrack: Penderecki & Górecki**

Please see 2.30pm.

---

8.15pm – 9.15pm  
Sunley Pavilion at  
Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 3 Green Side

**Dekalog 5**

'Thou shalt not kill.'

---

9pm – 10pm  
Blue Room, Spirit Level at  
Royal Festival Hall

**The Symphony of Sorrowful Songs**

Please see 12.30pm.

---

9.30pm – 10.30pm  
Sunley Pavilion at  
Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 3 Green Side

**Dekalog 6**

'Thou shalt not commit adultery.'



@1century1year

## SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

10.30am – 11.30am  
The Front Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### Breakfast with Gubaidulina

Grab a coffee and delve inside the workings of some of the music behind *The Rest Is Noise* festival. Curious about the music but scared off by the terminology? Then this fun, informal and practical session, a feature of every festival weekend, is for you. Led by composer and amateur John Browne, and featuring violinist Agata Daraškaitė and pianist Clodna Shanahan, today's session focuses on Gubaidulina's *Offertorium*, the violin concerto dedicated to Gidon Kremer.

12 noon – 1pm  
The Front Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### Noise Bites

A whistle-stop tour through the key artists, movements and political breakthroughs of the era. With 15 minutes per topic, the need-to-know subjects include the **Sex Pistols** and **the squat movement**.

Purcell Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### Hanif Kureishi

In key works including *The Buddha of Suburbia* and *My Beautiful Laundrette*, Hanif Kureishi portrayed a vibrant and violent Britain in the throes of great social upheaval. At this event he discusses Britain in the 1970s and 1980s, and the themes of race, nationalism and sexuality that have shaped his work. Chaired by Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of Southbank Centre.

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

### Howard Skempton on Cornelius Cardew

Composer Howard Skempton discusses the works of Cornelius Cardew. The talk is followed by a selection of Ode Machines from Cardew's Paragraph 5 of *The Great Learning* performed by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and James Weeks.

St Paul's Roof Pavilion  
at Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 6 Blue Side

### Edward Bond

Edward Bond's controversial work for the theatre has always held a mirror up to society, reflecting violence and hypocrisy in a radical oeuvre which played a huge part in abolishing theatre censorship. At this event he discusses his work from the 1960s through to the 1980s, reflecting on how plays such as *Saved*, *The Woman* and *Restoration*, absorbed and responded to the social changes of the era.

12noon – 1.30pm  
Blue Room, Spirit Level at  
Royal Festival Hall

### Arvo Pärt: 24 Preludes for a Fugue

Please see 4pm Saturday 2 November.

2pm – 3pm  
The Front Room at  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

### Noise Bites

A whistle-stop tour through the key artists, movements and political breakthroughs of the era. With 15 minutes per topic, the need-to-know subjects include **the birth of MTV** and **Glasnost in the Soviet Union**.

Purcell Room at Queen  
Elizabeth Hall

### Robert Winston – Test-Tube Babies

Robert Winston, one of the UK's leading scientists, gives this keynote lecture on the first test-tube baby, and the rapid advances in fertility treatment that took place in 1970s Britain. Throughout his career, Robert Winston's work has been at the forefront of research into genetics and human reproduction.

Blue Room, Spirit Level  
at Royal Festival Hall

### The Battle of Orgreave

A film of Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller's 2001 re-enactment of one of the most violent confrontations of the 1984/85 miners strike, when police mounted a cavalry charge through the mining village of Orgreave in South Yorkshire.

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

### Big Bang: Thatcherite Economics

Margaret Thatcher profoundly reshaped British economic and social life over 11 years as Prime Minister. Alwyn Turner, author of *Rejoice! Rejoice! Britain in the 1980s* joins a panel including Bea Campbell, a campaigning journalist and author of *The Iron Ladies* to discuss the impact of her policies.

St. Paul's Roof Pavilion  
at Royal Festival Hall,  
Level 6 Blue Side

### Punk to Post-Punk

From the Sex Pistols to Gang of Four, from Vivienne Westwood to John Cooper Clarke, the music, fashion, art and literature of punk and post-punk defined the anti-establishment voice of British youth. Speakers at this event include DJ and filmmaker Don Letts and Viv Albertine from The Slits and it is chaired by writer and historian Graham Robb. This event focuses on the music and aesthetics of the period between 1978 and 1984 when pop got political, and radical experimentation infected mainstream culture.

3.15pm – 4.15pm Sunley Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall, Level 3 Green Side	<b>Dekalog</b> 'Thou shalt not steal.' A masterpiece of contemporary cinema, these ten one-hour films by the acclaimed Polish director Krzysztof Kieślowski are powerful and profound stories of love and loss, faith and fear. Originally made for Polish television in 1988, each episode is inspired by one of the Ten Commandments. 3.15pm Episode 7; 4.30pm Episode 8; 5.45pm Episode 9; 7pm Episode 10
3.30pm – 4.30pm Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>Karen Armstrong</b> Karen Armstrong's writing is consistently at the heart of contemporary debates around spirituality and religious values. At this event, she looks back at the global religious landscape of the 1970s and 1980s, which saw increasing secularism in the West, and a return to spiritual values in the Communist bloc.
Blue Room, Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Pilgrimage From Scattered Points</b> A chance to see Turner Prize-shortlisted artist Luke Fowler's documentary on composer Cornelius Cardew and the Scratch Orchestra, a motley group of musicians and non-musicians which ran from 1968 – 1974.
The Weston Roof Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall, Level 6 Green Side	<b>Lucy Robinson: Greenham Common</b> The Greenham Common Peace Camp attracted global attention as one of the most visible anti-nuclear sites in the world. Lucy Robinson looks back at this potent symbol of activism and feminism, which was set up in September 1981, and which ran parallel to the nuclear arms race between the Western allies and the Soviet Bloc at the time. Chaired by writer and critic Bidisha.
St. Paul's Roof Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall, Level 6 Blue Side	<b>Tarkovsky</b> Layla Alexander-Garrett gives this illustrated talk about the work of Soviet film maker Andrei Tarkovsky, whose films, which include <i>Solaris</i> and <i>Stalker</i> , offer a metaphysical and poetic view of the world. Layla Alexander-Garrett worked as Tarkovsky's on-set translator on the film <i>Sacrifice</i> . Chaired by writer and curator Gareth Evans.
4.30pm – 5.30pm Sunley Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall, Level 3 Green Side	<b>Dekalog 8</b> 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.'
5pm – 6pm Queen Elizabeth Hall	<b>Andriessen's De Staat and Henze's Voices</b> A performance of Andriessen's <i>De Staat</i> by Guildhall School of Music & Drama and excerpts from Hans Werner Henze's <i>Voices</i> by musicians from the Royal College of Music.
Blue Room, Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall	<b>The Battle of Orgreave</b> Please see 2pm.
5.45pm – 6.45pm Sunley Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall, Level 3 Green Side	<b>Dekalog 9</b> 'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife.'
6.30pm – 7.15pm The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Sunday Gathering</b> Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of Southbank Centre, leads a round-up session looking at the themes of the weekend, and invites your feedback on the festival. She is joined by Baroness Shirley Williams, who will reflect on her political life in the 1970s and 1980s and the founding of the SDP.
Blue Room, Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall	<b>Sofia, Biography of a Violin Concerto</b> Please see 6pm, Saturday 2 November.
7pm – 8pm Sunley Pavilion at Royal Festival Hall, Level 3 Green Side	<b>Dekalog 10</b> 'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods.'

7.30pm – c.9.30pm  
Royal Festival Hall

**Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra: Last Words\***

Composers Shostakovich and Britten formed a friendship across the Iron Curtain that survived until their last days. Gramophone Award-winning conductor Vasily Petrenko leads the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic in their orchestral swansongs.

\*Not included in the Saturday or Weekend Passes: tickets available from the Ticket Office from £9.

---

8pm – 10.45pm  
The Clore Ballroom at  
Royal Festival Hall

**Solaris**

Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky's third feature film, released in 1972, is a sensual and mesmerising re-invention of the sci-fi genre. Cosmonaut Donatas Banionis is sent to investigate disappearances on the space station orbiting the planet Solaris, only to be confronted by his past in the guise of his dead wife.

The next stop in *The Rest Is Noise* is *Superpower* in a week's time on Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 November. See the festival brochure for full listings or visit [southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise](http://southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise)

Supported by the Polish Cultural Institute  
in London and The Ambache Charitable Trust



The Ambache Charitable Trust  
is active in raising the profile  
of women composers

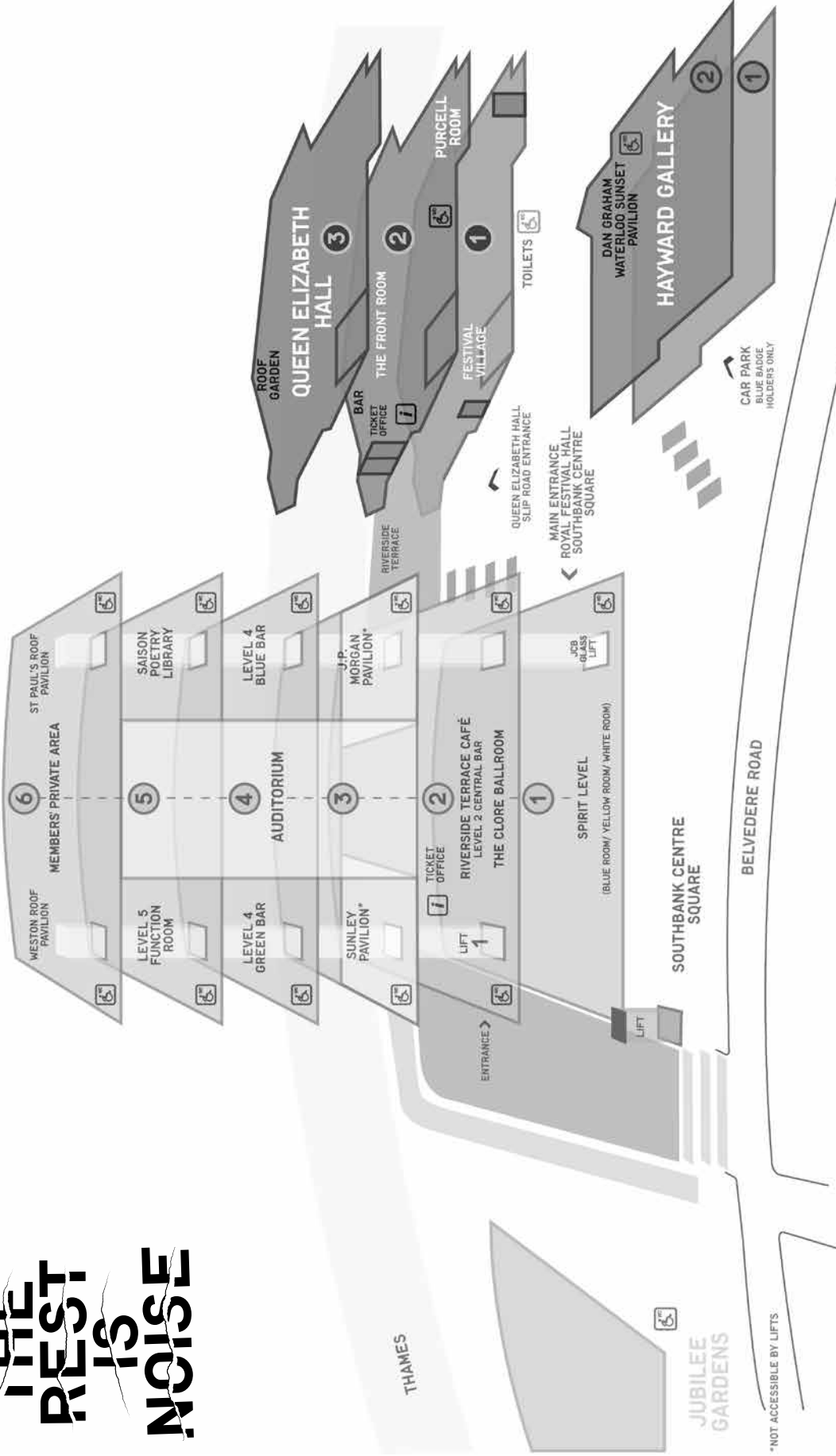


@1century1year

# THE REST IS NOISE

## ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

GREEN SIDE BLUE SIDE



\*NOT ACCESSIBLE BY LIFTS

Media partner:

**the guardian**

Principal  
orchestra  
partner:

London  
Philharmonic  
Orchestra

**SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE**

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

**LOTTERY FUNDED**