

SUPERPOWER

Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall
Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 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

SUPERPOWER AMERICA 1960 – 1990

America's continued domination on the world stage was symbolised by Neil Armstrong's tentative steps on the surface of the moon in July 1969, but not everything was going smoothly. The 1970s saw economic troubles, foreign-policy headaches and the dramatic resignation of President Nixon over the Watergate scandal. Some of the idealism of the 1960s had subsided, but American artists were creating engaging work away from the angst and in-fighting of the European avant-garde. A group of American composers developed Minimalism, a music that brought consonant harmonies to a fresh new

physicality in rhythm to the lofts and art galleries of New York. Euphoric, hypnotic and with a commercial success that set it apart from many previous musical movements, Minimalism had an engaging openness that took in influences from jazz and gamelan to African drumming. Of course, there had been American composers writing genuinely popular notated music before Minimalism, but it was being heard in movie theatres and on Broadway. Many cinematic and musical-theatre classics benefited from stirring and memorable music that has become an integral part of America's cultural landscape.

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

Free Study Evening, Thursday 14 November, 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. Experts Tim Rutherford-Johnson and Keith Potter will be on hand to answer questions and guide the discussion. Topics for this session 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 for further content, to catch up on any talks you missed, and to explore more of the festival.

southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise

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

THE
REST
IS
NOISE

SOUTHBANK
CENTRE

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER

10am – 10pm

Sunley Pavilion at
Royal Festival Hall,
Level 3 Green Side

A Retrospective of John Whitney

Regarded as one of the fathers of computer animation, John Whitney successfully linked musical composition with experimental film and computer imaging and remained a pioneer in the field until his death in 1995. Watch some of his most arresting and beautiful work from the 1960s and 1970s.

10.30am – 11.30am

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Robert Spitzer: Superpower?

Robert Spitzer, Professor of Political Science at the State University of New York, gives a panoramic overview of America's dominant place on the global stage between 1960 and 1990. While Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon were a triumph for America, the continuing war in Vietnam, the resignation of President Nixon and the fiscal crisis of the mid-1970s eroded American confidence back on earth.

11.30am – 6pm

Various times

White Room, Spirit Level
at Royal Festival Hall

Nancarrow's Studio

Exiled in Mexico City for most of his life, an early victim of American anti-communist scapegoating, Conlon Nancarrow composed a unique and extraordinary body of music for the player piano. Visit his specially recreated studio and hear much of this music performed live. Curated by Dominic Murcott, Head of Composition at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance.

Short performances will take place at the following times:

Saturday 9: 11.30am; 11.45am; 1pm; 1.30pm; 2pm; 3pm; 3.15pm; 4.30pm; 4.45pm
and 5.30pm.

12pm – 1pm

Level 5 Function Room
at Royal Festival Hall,
Green Side

Keith Potter: The Birth of Minimalism

Goldsmiths University lecturer Keith Potter gives a talk on the birth and rise of minimalist music in the 1960s and 1970s, focusing on key composers such as La Monte Young, Terry Riley, Steve Reich and Philip Glass.

The Front Room at
Queen Elizabeth Hall

No Wave

The No Wave scene blossomed amidst the urban decay of downtown New York. Nina Canal and Sally Young from seminal No Wave band Ut join writer and theorist Kodwo Eshun and chair Sukhdev Sandhu to discuss the energy and influence of this short-lived scene, which brought together Noise, Super 8 films, and political and feminist art, in sharp contrast to the commercial mainstream.

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

Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol was at the centre of the New York art world from his first appearance in the late 1950s through to his sudden, early death in 1987. Robert Brown, International Head of Research at Christie's, will examine Warhol's art-historical significance and his place in the market today.

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

Watergate

Writer Carl Freedman looks at the Watergate scandal, one of the defining political moments of the 1970s, which brought down the presidency of Richard Nixon. A break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington resulted in an investigation. Following this 43 people, many of them Nixon's top officials, were subsequently convicted and imprisoned. Chaired by historian and political journalist Tim Stanley.

Blue Room, Spirit Level at
Royal Festival Hall

In the Ocean

Made in 2001, Frank Scheffer's wide-ranging documentary explores the American contemporary music scene over the last two decades of the century, focusing on Bang On A Can, one of the US's most vital new music movements. Featuring contributions from Brian Eno, John Cage, Steve Reich, Philip Glass, Elliott Carter, and Louis Andriessen, the film is intercut with atmospheric scenes of Big Apple street life.

1pm – 2.30pm

The Clore Ballroom at
Royal Festival Hall

Koyaanisqatsi

An art-house cinema sensation, this 1983 documentary by Godfrey Reggio marries fast-moving visually arresting imagery with the monumental music of Philip Glass. Lacking story, dialogue or characters, *Koyaanisqatsi* is composed of manipulated nature imagery juxtaposed with footage of humans' devastating environmental impact on the planet.

1.15pm – 2.50pm
Blue Room, Spirit Level at
Royal Festival Hall

Blank City

Céline Danhier's 2010 film is a love letter to New York and a cultural portrait of Manhattan in the days before Reagan, big money, and gentrification forever altered the fabric of the city. It tells the long-overdue tale of a disparate crew of renegade filmmakers who emerged from an economically bankrupt and dangerous moment in the city's history to form No Wave cinema and 'Cinema of Transgression'.

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

Science Keynote: The World Wide Web

Invented in 1989 by Tim Berners-Lee, the World Wide Web now influences every aspect of human life. This lecture looks back to the web's origins at CERN, and its rapid development into the 21st century.

Purcell Room at
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Elliott Carter: An American Pioneer

Mentored by Charles Ives, Elliott Carter, who lived to be 103, produced elegant Modernist music throughout his long life. Musicians from the Royal Academy of Music perform a selection of Elliott Carter's solo and instrumental works.

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

Listen to This

Conductor Richard Bernas talks about and plays recorded extracts of music in *Superpower*, including Philip Glass, Steve Reich, John Cage and Morton Feldman.

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

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 **Native Americans** and **Broadway Theatre**.

3pm – 4.40pm
Blue Room, Spirit Level
at Royal Festival Hall

Looking Glass

This revealing documentary captures the overflowing energy and activity of one of today's greatest composers, Philip Glass. Made in 2005, Éric Darmon's film follows Glass over a seven-month period, capturing him at work on the last details of his opera, *The Sound of a Voice*, and speaking about his beginnings and influences.

3.30pm – 4.30pm
The Front Room at
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Robert Frank: Photographing America

Throughout his long career, Robert Frank's photographs, film and video work have captured both the excesses of money and fame and the harsh realities of class and racial inequality in his adopted land. Speakers include film-maker Gerald Fox, one of the few people to ever have interviewed him.

Purcell Room at
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Luc Sante

Luc Sante is a writer and critic with a particular focus on the social history of New York. In this keynote talk, he zooms in on the characters and stories that lit up the downtown scene in the 1970s and 1980s and the freedom that artists and marginalised people had to make Manhattan a creative playground. The event is chaired by activist and writer Sarah Schulman.

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

Listen to This

Please see 2pm.

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

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 **the writing of Susan Sontag** and **the death of John Lennon**.

4.35pm – 5.30pm
The Front Room at
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Leaving Home, Coming Home

Join us for this rare screening of Gerald Fox's documentary *Leaving Home, Coming Home: A Portrait of Robert Frank*, featuring interviews and rare archive footage.

5pm – c.10pm
Royal Festival Hall

Philip Glass Ensemble: Music in 12 Parts*

A rare complete performance of Philip Glass' four-hour Minimalist masterpiece with the composer himself on keyboards.

*Not included in the Saturday or Weekend Passes: tickets available from the Ticket Office from £12.

Have dinner with your fellow concert-goers in a New York loft-style setting. Company of Cooks are pleased to offer a brown-bag meal in the long interval of this performance. The meal contains chilli and rice (beef or vegetarian), a chocolate brownie and an individual bottle of wine (£15), or orange juice (£12). Grab your dinner then join your fellow concert-goers at a communal dinner table on The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall. Pre-order your supper from 4pm at the pay point next to Riverside Terrace Cafe. Keep your receipt and present this at the collection point on The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall.

5.30pm – 7pm
Blue Room, Spirit Level at
Royal Festival Hall

Elliott Carter, A Labyrinth of Time

At the heart of this intimate 2004 film portrait by Frank Scheffer are interviews with Carter in the privacy of his Manhattan home. Mentored by Charles Ives in the 1920s and still writing into the 21st century, composer Elliott Carter dedicated his life to music.

7.30pm – 9pm
Blue Room, Spirit Level at
Royal Festival Hall

Streetwise

A rare chance to see Martin Bell's cult 1984 documentary, a haunting portrait of teenagers living on the streets of Seattle's Tenderloin district, made following a *LIFE* magazine article revealing a rampant homelessness issue in America's 'most liveable city'.



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SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER

10am – 10pm

Sunley Pavilion at
Royal Festival Hall,
Level 3 Green Side

A Retrospective of John Whitney

Please see 10am, Saturday 9 November.

10.30am – 11.30am

The Front Room at
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Breakfast with Glass and Reich

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? Want to discover exactly what makes a great piece of modern music work? Then this fun, informal and practical session, a feature of every festival weekend, is for you. Assisted by musicians from the Colin Currie Group, composer John Barber explores and contrasts Glass' *Music in 12 Parts* with the music of Steve Reich, featured in this evening's concert.

11.30am – 7.15pm

Various times

White Room, Spirit Level
at Royal Festival Hall

Nancarrow's Studio

Exiled in Mexico City for most of his life, an early victim of American anti-communist scapegoating, Conlon Nancarrow composed a unique and extraordinary body of music for the player piano. Visit his specially recreated studio and hear much of this music performed live. Curated by Dominic Murcott, Head of Composition at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance.

Short performances will take place at the following times:

Sunday 10: 11.15am; 11.30am; 1pm; 1.30pm; 2pm; 3pm; 3.15pm; 4.30pm; 4.45pm; 6.15pm and 6.45pm.

11.45am – 12.45pm

Royal Festival Hall

Steve Reich

One of the most influential living composers of the Minimalist movement, Steve Reich is in discussion with Southbank Centre's Head of Classical Music Gillian Moore about New York culture in the 1960s and 1970s.

1pm – c.2pm

Purcell Room at
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Andrew Zolinsky: America's Great Originals*

Piano music from some great American experimentalists focusing the listener on sound, silence and time. Includes pieces by Christian Wolff, John Cage, Meredith Monk and Morton Feldman.

*Not included in the Sunday or Weekend Pass: tickets available from the Ticket Office for £10.

1pm – 1.50pm

Blue Room, Spirit Level
at Royal Festival Hall

The South Bank Show: Steve Reich

Mathew Tucker's 2006 profile finds minimalist composer Steve Reich on the eve of his 70th birthday and focuses specially on the *Daniel Variations*, his piece about the murdered American journalist Daniel Pearl and *Music for 18 Musicians*.

2pm – 3pm

Level 4 Blue Bar,
Royal Festival Hall

The Pop Icon

Writer and journalist Bidisha looks at the changing face of pop music in the 1980s, when the launch of MTV transformed the image of stars like Madonna, Grace Jones and Prince, turning them into global brands in the video age. Bidisha leads the discussion alongside Matt Thorne, author of *Prince* and Dylan Jones, editor of *i-D* and *Arena* in the 1980s and author of books on David Bowie and Live Aid.

Level 5 Function Room
at Royal Festival Hall,
Green Side

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 the downtown artist **Jean-Michel Basquiat**, legendary singer **Joni Mitchell** and the writer **Walter Abish**.

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

The Downtown Arts Scene

Lower Manhattan in the 1970s was a blighted landscape of abandoned piers, derelict warehouses and empty lots. Fiona Anderson talks about the life and work of David Wojnarowicz and curator Lydia Yee focuses on Gordon Matta-Clark. Together they discuss the way artists responded to this landscape, opening galleries in abandoned spaces and experimenting with different media to represent the queer lives and drug-afflicted communities in the area. Chaired by Sukhdev Sandhu.

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

Film Music of the 1970s

Broadcaster, film-maker and producer Tommy Pearson discusses iconic film scores of the decade, including works by John Williams and Bernard Herrmann.

2pm – 3.30pm
Blue Room, Spirit Level
at Royal Festival Hall

Elliott Carter, A Labyrinth of Time
Please see 5.30pm, Saturday 9 November.

3pm – c.5pm
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sondheim: Inside Out with BBC Concert Orchestra*
Delve into Sondheim's unique and entertaining observations on love, relationships and human interaction in this concert of some of his best hits.
*Not included in the Sunday or Weekend Passes. RETURNS ONLY.

3.30pm – 4.30pm
Purcell Room at
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Naomi Wolf
Naomi Wolf is a prominent author, activist and political campaigner. She looks back at recent American history and how issues of patriotism, citizenship and democracy were affected by the USA's position as the world's pre-eminent superpower.

Level 5 Function Room
at Royal Festival Hall,
Green Side

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 are **artist Cindy Sherman, Fiscal Crisis, Yoko Ono and Fluxus and the poet Jack Spicer.**

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

Birth of Hip-Hop
Join BBC broadcaster DJ Nihal to discuss the birth of hip-hop alongside Normski, an influential rapper and DJ in Britain, and DJ Hooch from the UK B-Boy Championships. Hip-hop originated at house parties and fused a new musical style from rapping, breakbeats and MCing. It emerged from the streets of the South Bronx, New York to become a global phenomenon.

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

AIDS: A New Time of Fear
AIDS was first identified in the US in 1981, and the rapid spread of the disease had a huge impact on society. This event looks back at political responses to AIDS, its portrayal in the media and its impact on religion and economics across the globe. Leading campaigner Sarah Schulman joins us from New York to discuss the history of AIDS in America, alongside Simon Watney, a writer and activist from the UK.

3.45pm – 4.45pm
Blue Room, Spirit Level
at Royal Festival Hall

In the Ocean
Please see 12 noon, Saturday 9 November.

5pm – 6pm
Purcell Room at
Queen Elizabeth Hall

America and Violence
Robert Spitzer, a leading authority on gun laws in America, looks at the conversation around firearm usage and the highly charged political debate regularly ignited by mass killings. Spitzer, the author of *The Politics of Gun Control*, is joined by Bonnie Greer, a writer and playwright who grew up on the South Side of Chicago and who is a regular commentator on American society.

Level 5 Function Room
at Royal Festival Hall,
Green Side

John Ashbery
John Ashbery won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1976 for his collection *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror* and has been a celebrated figure in American poetry ever since. Poets Oli Hazzard and Susan Howe read selections from his work and talk about his influence on their own writing before taking questions from the audience. Chaired by David Herd, a poet and professor at the University of Kent.

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

Tim Lawrence: DJ culture, Disco and the rise of House Music
Beginning in the disused loft spaces of 1970s Manhattan and reaching a crescendo in the early 1980s at the Warehouse club in Chicago, dance music spread like a virus to become the defining sound of urban America. Tim Lawrence, author of *Love Saves the Day*, gives an illustrated history of this journey, which takes in David Mancuso, the Philly Sound and Studio 54. Chaired by Sukhdev Sandhu.

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

The Art of Jeff Koons
In the late 1980s, as the Downtown art scene began to lose its radical edge, Jeff Koons emerged as a dominant figure in American art. We assess some of his most famous works, including balloon animals, sexually explicit posters and flower sculptures. Peter Osborne examines the impact and significance of Koons' work. Chaired by *Guardian* art critic Jonathan Jones.

5pm – 6.40pm
Blue Room, Spirit Level
at Royal Festival Hall

Looking Glass
Please see 3pm Saturday 9 November.

6.30pm – 7pm
The Clore Ballroom at
Royal Festival Hall

Sunday Gathering
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.

7pm – 8.35pm
Blue Room, Spirit Level
at Royal Festival Hall

Blank City
Please see 1.15pm, Saturday 9 November.

7.30pm – c.10pm
Royal Festival Hall

Steve Reich & the Colin Currie Group*
Steve Reich himself joins us for a selection of his most bewitching scores including *Clapping Music*, *Come Out*, *Pendulum Music* and *Music For 18 Musicians*.
*Not included in the Sunday or Weekend Passes. RETURNS ONLY.

The next stop in *The Rest Is Noise* is *New World Order* on Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 December. See the festival brochure for full listings or visit southbankcentre.co.uk/therestisnoise

Visit itunes.com/therestisnoise to explore related music, podcasts, iBooks and more

Superpower is generously supported by the Embassy of the United States, London

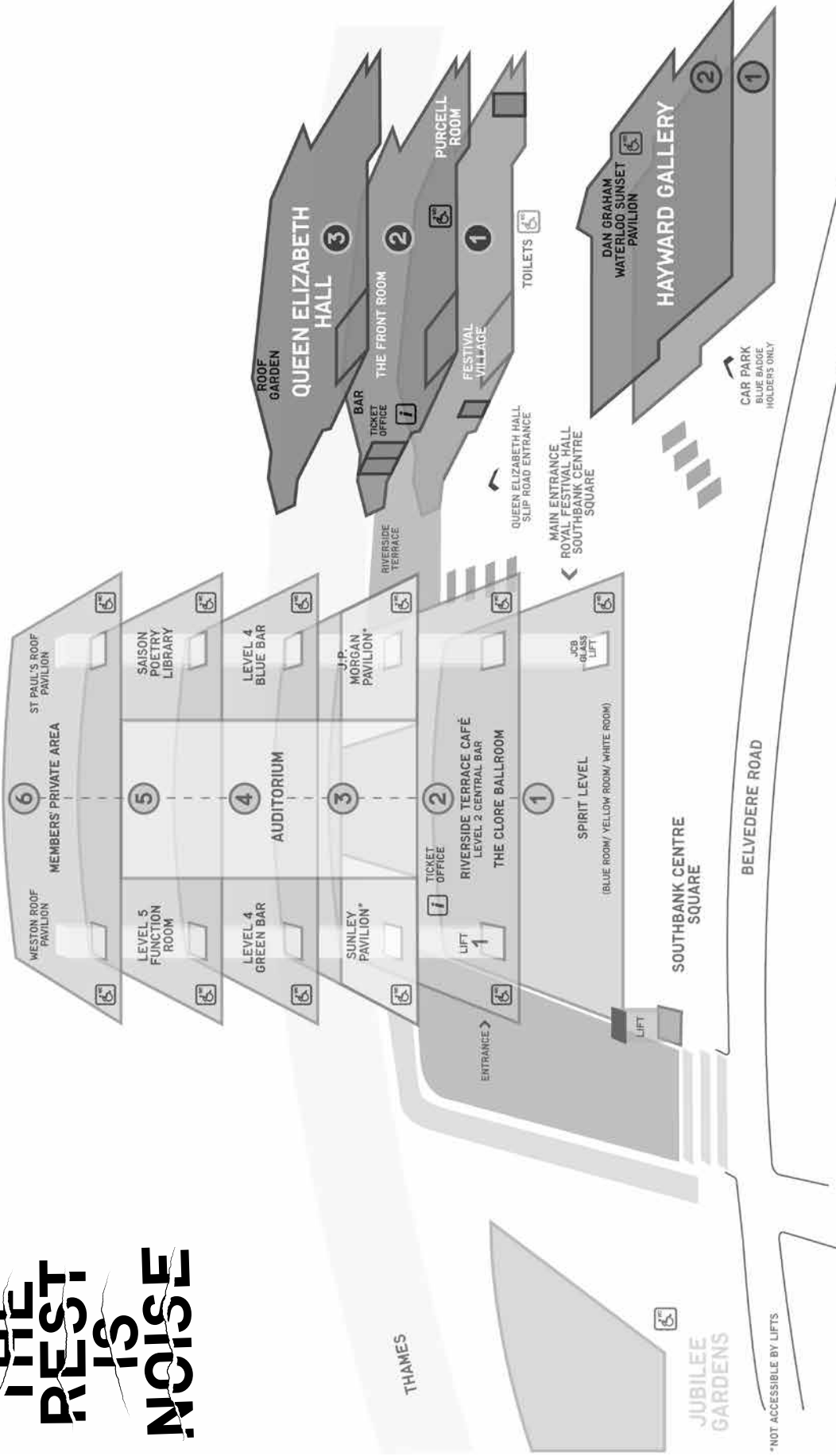


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THE REST IS NOISE

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

GREEN SIDE BLUE SIDE



*NOT ACCESSIBLE BY LIFTS

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