

Press Release: September, 2023

## **MUSIC, DANCE AND SPOKEN WORD AT ARNOLFINI THIS AUTUMN**

September to November 2023



Lawrence Power and Sharia Johnson, *64 Variations*.

Artists from three continents, working at the vanguard of music and sound, interwoven with spoken word, moving image, and creative learning, are among a diverse programme of live events at Arnolfini this Autumn.

The season opens with the culmination of Bristol-based percussionist Dan Johnson's residency at Arnolfini, *Ecstatic Drum Beats*, on **Saturday 9 September**. Through discovering ways to create music responding to site and the unique skills of his co-performers, Dan, with collaborators Saffiya Abibu and Sumaya Hassan-Murphy will present a unique, improvised performance, with support from poet Iman Sultan West and Run Logan Run partner Andrew Neil Hayes.

The following day, Dan will run **Ecstatic Drum Beats Workshop on Sunday 10 September** exploring new and traditional approaches to composition, improvisation, and performance and share a series of exercises designed to develop new skills and ways of thinking in each of these areas. All instruments will be provided, though participants are welcome to bring their own if they wish, for an opportunity to create brand new collaborative music and performance pieces during the session. Activities promise both fun and challenge for professional, intermediate or beginning musicians and for drummers and non-drummers alike.

On **Saturday 16 September 64 Variations** presents an atmospheric, cross-artform interpretation of JS Bach's legendary Chaconne in D Minor. The piece itself is played by the British viola virtuoso Lawrence Power, with responses from dancer Sharia Johnson and soprano Heloise Werner. The three artists performed in an abandoned warehouse and were filmed in atmospheric detail by Jessie Rodger. Presented in Arnolfini's theatre space, the film will be on loop throughout the day.

Poet Caroline Bergvall, who exhibited at Arnolfini in 2000, makes a very welcome return with **Nottsong on Friday 22 September**. A duo for two voices, spoken and sung, with sound installation and moving image, Nottsong is inspired by ancient Norse mythology, the nomadic and migratory nature of people and language, and 'what it means to be in the dark'. Nottsong will be presented at dusk at the Autumn equinox, marking the transition into the darker half of the year with a dream-like reimagination of our deeply interconnected lives, across times and languages.

Calling Calling on Wednesday 14 October is an evening organised by popular Bristol artist collective The Brunswick Club. The close of an expanded vocal project which has involved many different artists exploring approaches to voice through the last six months, Calling Calling will include performances by Sharon Gal, Phil Minton, Dali de Saint Paul, Jason Singh and a new work developed by local artists during a residency at Arnolfini in September. There will also be a screening of *Voice: Sculpting Sound*, a portrait of musician and singer Maja Ratkje, at The Cube on the Sunday.



Calling Calling

Taking place at the preview evening of Elias Sime *Eregata* **እርጋታ** exhibition, on Friday 20 October, *Another Sky* is a performance of experimental music linking southwest Asia and North Africa to the UK and Europe. Working across overlapping strands of new music, improv and electronics, and curated by composer Sam Salem with producer Emily Moore, *Another Sky* is presented at Café Oto in London with satellite events at Arnolfini, Sonic Matter Festival and Zurich, Irtijal Festival in Beirut.

New music specialist Adam Swayne brings a programme for piano with electronics to Arnolfini, with **Couperin and Concrète** on **Friday 27 October**. Referencing the French electronic music technique of splicing together sounds from many sources, Swayne draws together new works exploring different approaches to quotation, reinvention and homage, with a favourite piece by the 18<sup>th</sup> century French keyboardist and composer Francois Couperin. A recital overlapping musically old and new influences.



A celebration of the work of the iconic American composer, Pauline Oliveros, begins on **Saturday 28 October** with a workshop introducing the artists' technique of **Deep Listening** as a transformative creative practice. The session will include exercises in focal and global listening, improvising with sound, movement and dreams, as well as opportunities to collaborate whilst developing attention and awareness.

Later the same day **Pauline Oliveros Deep Listening** will include interpretations of three of her text-scores by musicians Ximena Alarcon, Tina Hitchens and Dan Johnson; and a screening of the new documentary 'Pauline Oliveros – Deep Listening' by Daniel Weintraub.

A Man in a Room, Gambling on Saturday 18 November is part of Phaedra Ensemble's year-long marking of beloved British experimental composer Gavin Bryars' 80th birthday. Reinterpreting a number of his seminal works for Arnolfini audiences, they bring a new take on A Man in a Room, Gambling. Described as 'an extraordinary aural sculpture', the piece combines ten recorded episodes of the artist Juan Muñoz describing card tricks and illusions, overlaid with Bryars' lush string quartet writing. A surreal, immersive performance by genre-defying Phaedra Ensemble, augmented by moving-image work by composer Jamie Hamilton.

All live events at Arnolfini are set at affordable and accessible prices, with concessions for those who need them.

The full programme includes more fantastic offerings from Arnolfini's creative partners and can be found at <https://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson-category/autumn2023/>

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For further information please contact Sara Blair | [sara.blair@arnolfini.org.uk](mailto:sara.blair@arnolfini.org.uk)

Images are available at <https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents>

@ArnolfiniArts Instagram / Threads / LinkedIn / Facebook /  
[www.arnolfini.org.uk](http://www.arnolfini.org.uk)

## LISTINGS:

### Ecstatic Drum Beats + Iman West + ANH

**Saturday, 9 September 2023. 7.30pm to 10pm**

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300

arnolfini.org.uk @ArnolfiniArts

Dan Johnson closes his Arnolfini residency with a showcase of brand-new ensemble works composed in and specifically for our theatre space. Utilising the unique creative skills of each of his collaborators and the sensitive, resonant acoustics of the Arnolfini theatre, the Ecstatic Drum Beats group will share a distinctive performance which by its nature cannot be repeated. Tickets at £9/£5.

<https://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/edb/>

#ArnolfiniArts #EcstaticDrumBeats #DanJohnson

Image [here: https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents](https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents)

### Ecstatic Drum Beats Workshop

**Sunday, 10 September 2023. 12.30pm to 5pm**

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300

arnolfini.org.uk @ArnolfiniArts

On the final day of his Arnolfini residency, Dan Johnson offers an in-depth workshop sharing key aspects of his creative practice as a percussionist and performance artist. Tickets at £20.

<https://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/edbworkshop/>

#ArnolfiniArts #EcstaticDrumBeats #DanJohnson

Image [here: https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents](https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents)

### Film | 64 Variations. Free

**Saturday, 16 September 2023. 11am to 6pm**

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300

arnolfini.org.uk @ArnolfiniArts

Join us for the screening of 64 Variations, an atmospheric, cross-artform interpretation of JS Bach's legendary Chaconne in D Minor. The piece itself is played by the British viola virtuoso Lawrence Power, with responses from dancer Sharia Johnson and soprano Heloise Werner. Free, drop in.

<https://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/64variations/>

#ArnolfiniArts #64Variations

Image [here: https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents](https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents)

**LISTINGS:**

**Caroline Bergvall: Nottsong (51°27'N Bristol)**

**Friday, 22 September 2023. 8.45pm to 10pm**

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300

arnolfini.org.uk @ArnolfiniArts

Nottsong is a performance for spoken and sung voices, electronics and multiple languages written and performed by Caroline Bergvall. With new vocal compositions by Gavin Bryars. Doors open 8.20pm. Tickets at £15/£7.50. Booking required.

<https://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/nottsong/>

#ArnolfiniArts #Nottsong #CarolineBergvall

Image [here: https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents](https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents)

**Calling Calling: A Gathering of Voices**

**Saturday, 14 October 2023. 7.30pm to 11pm**

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300

arnolfini.org.uk @ArnolfiniArts

Sharon Gal, Nik Rawlings, Phil Minton + Feral Choir, Dali de St Paul + artist collaborator and a new collaborative ensemble piece by Calling Calling vocalists. Tickets at £12/£8

[arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/callingcalling/](https://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/callingcalling/)

#Arnolfini #CallingCalling

Image [here: https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents](https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents)

**Adam Swayne: Couperin and Concrete**

**Friday, 27 October 2023. 7.30pm to 8.30pm**

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300

arnolfini.org.uk @ArnolfiniArts

An evening with Manchester-based pianist and new music specialist, Adam Swayne. This programme of music for piano and electronics owes as much to older styles as it does the musique concrete of 20th century France. Tickets at £12/£7.50

[arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/adamswayne/](https://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/adamswayne/)

#Arnolfini #AdamSwayne

Image [here: https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents](https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents)

## LISTINGS:

### Deep Listening Workshop

Saturday, 28 October 2023. 2pm to 4pm

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300

[arnolfini.org.uk](http://arnolfini.org.uk) @ArnolfiniArts

Opening a day at Arnolfini celebrating the work of iconic musician Pauline Oliveros, a chance to learn about her approach to Deep Listening as a practice. Pay what you can tickets, bookings required.

[arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/deeplistingworkshop/](http://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/deeplistingworkshop/)

#Arnolfini #DeepListeningWorkshop

Image [here: https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents](https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents)

### Pauline Oliveros: Deep Listening

Saturday, 28 October 2023. 7pm to 10.30pm

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300

[arnolfini.org.uk](http://arnolfini.org.uk) @ArnolfiniArts

Live performance of works from Pauline Oliveros' Deep Listening Pieces, followed by a screening of the new documentary Deep Listening: The Story of Pauline Oliveros. Performances from 7pm to 8pm, followed by the screening 8.30pm to 10.30pm. Tickets at £15/£7.50.

[arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/paulineoliveros/](http://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/paulineoliveros/)

#Arnolfini #DeepListening #PaulineOliveros

Image [here: https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents](https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents)

### Phaedra Ensemble: A Man In A Room, Gambling

Saturday, 18 November 2023. 7.30pm to 9.45pm

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA 0117 917 2300

[arnolfini.org.uk](http://arnolfini.org.uk) @ArnolfiniArts

Phaedra Ensemble present a new multimedia production of British composer Gavin Bryars and sculptor Juan Munoz's sonic collaboration, written in 1997 for string quartet and recorded voice. Tickets at £15/£7.50.

[arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/phaedraensemble/](http://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/phaedraensemble/)

#Arnolfini #PhaedraEnsemble

Image [here: https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents](https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniEvents)



## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Arnolfini

Woven into the fabric of Bristol since 1961, Arnolfini is an international centre of interdisciplinary contemporary arts, presenting an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of visual art, performance, dance, film, and music.

Housed in Bush House, a prominent 19<sup>th</sup> century former warehouse on the city's harbourside, Arnolfini is a pioneering, inspiring public space for arts and learning, offering an innovative, inclusive and engaging experience for all.

Arnolfini has welcomed artists from around world throughout its history – sharing works by Paula Rego, Jannis Kounellis, John Akomfrah, Grayson Perry, Rachel Whiteread, Peter Doig, Richard Long, Veronica Ryan, Chantal Joffe, Sonia Boyce, Alice Kettle and Frank Bowling, to name just a few - as well as supporting talent from in and around Bristol.

Alongside its main programme, Arnolfini is a centre of everyday creativity and learning, working with a wide range of community and artistic partners, while continuing to explore and develop new collaborations across the city and beyond. Spaces are used regularly by families, schools and colleges, health and wellbeing groups.

Through sharing a 62+ year archive of exhibition slides, publications and an extensive artist book collection, Arnolfini celebrates its heritage and the wide-reaching impact the organisation has had since its foundation.

From 2019, Director Gary Topp and team have sought to honour Arnolfini's founder Jeremy Rees' principle to 'Enjoy Yourself', welcoming everyone into the accessible space, and inviting engagement, in any number of ways.

Arnolfini is part of the University of the West of England and a key element of their City Campus.

An independent charity (CIO), Arnolfini is supported by Arts Council England and the Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust.

## About UWE Bristol

The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) has a global and inclusive outlook, with approximately 36,000 students and strong industry networks and connections with over 1,000 employers. Research at UWE Bristol focuses on real world problems and the University plays a pivotal role in the regional economy. With over £300 million invested in infrastructure, buildings and facilities across all Campuses, UWE Bristol is creating a place for learning that is innovative, ambitious, connected, enabling and inclusive. UWE Bristol is ranked 24th in the Guardian university league table. [www.uwe.ac.uk](http://www.uwe.ac.uk)

## About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

## About Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust

Arnolfini has been supported by a linked charity, the Ashley Clinton Barker Mills Trust (ACBMT) for almost 60 years.

Arnolfini founders Jeremy and Annabel Rees were first introduced to the artists and benefactors Peter and Caroline Barker-Mill in 1963, by the London gallerist Lesley Waddington. It was a fortuitous meeting that was the catalyst in allowing Arnolfini to develop from a small volunteer-run private gallery into a major international arts centre.

The Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust (ACBMT) principle is to work with Arnolfini, primarily by making annual grants from the income earned on its investments, as well as funding modest, one-off capital grants to help the Arnolfini transition to its current financial model. In more recent years members of the ACMBT have become more involved working with Arnolfini to help plan its future.

[www.arnolfini.org.uk/about/ashley-clinton-barker-mills-trust](http://www.arnolfini.org.uk/about/ashley-clinton-barker-mills-trust)