

# Artangel

Press Release | January 2012

## Sounds from a Room

### Internationally renowned musicians to perform live from *A Room for London* throughout 2012

*Sounds from a Room* is Artangel's year long programme of international musicians taking up residence and then performing live from *A Room for London*, a one-bedroom architectural installation perched on top of Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall on the River Thames. This intimate temporary new venue for the capital will broadcast a series of live 'bedroom gigs', starting this January with **Andrew Bird** and also including **Heiner Goebbels, Amadou & Mariam** and **Imogen Heap**, with more names to be announced later in the year. Each musician's performance will be streamed live on [www.a roomforlondon.co.uk](http://www.a roomforlondon.co.uk) and relayed onto screens at Southbank Centre.

Andrew Bird says: "I have this history of playing non-traditional venues: former bank lobbies, Odd Fellows Halls and a few boats, but nothing quite like a boat stranded in the heart of London. Seems like my kind of thing. I also like the look of the other guests."

**Laurie Anderson** will become resident in *A Room for London* in March, exploring the city and its secrets to produce a new sound piece; and **David Byrne** will stay in February, using the space to record a special soundwork for podcast later the same month.

Byrne says: "My decision to be involved with *A Room for London* stems from my relationship with Artangel. Though there might have been a great temptation to squat in a house filled with poisonous crystals or one with strange twins, a view of the Thames seems a lot more sensible, more comfortable and private. I have some pretty good ideas about what I'll do up there, but I suspect there'll be room to react to the boat itself and the surroundings - so there'll be some improvising as well."

#### Sounds from a Room Performance Schedule

28 January 2-3pm The Clore Ballroom, Royal Festival Hall (via screen)

Chicago based multi-instrumentalist **Andrew Bird**'s seventh solo album *Break it Yourself* will be released this March and other than his sold out Barbican gig, this will be the only opportunity to see him live in the UK this spring.

26 February 6-6.45pm Queen Elizabeth Hall Front Room (via screen)

The German composer **Heiner Goebbels**, is known for his compositions for ensembles and large orchestras and will produce a musical response to Joseph Conrad's 1890 journal *Up-River Book*. He will be joined by Senegalese Griots Sira and Boubakar Djebaté (voice and kora), the French musician Xavier Garcia (electronics) and the actor André Wilms.

25 March 5-6pm Spirit Level Blue Room, Royal Festival Hall (via screen)

Visual artist and musician **Laurie Anderson** has released numerous acclaimed albums, films, books and exhibited her art in museums and galleries around the world. For *Sounds from a Room*, Anderson will be creating and performing a new sound piece.

Performances, featuring two husband and wife duos, will follow on 26 April with Swedish band **Wildbirds and Peacedrums** and **Amadou & Mariam** from Mali on 23 May; and **Imogen Heap** will be writing a new song while in residence for performance on 22 June.

Musicians performing as part of *Sounds from a Room* will use *A Room for London* as their studio and draw from its position as a unique window on the sights and sounds of London. Offering live 'bedroom gigs' from musicians who usually headline large venues, it is a unique opportunity to experience these artists in a more intimate space.

*Sounds from a Room* is part of Artangel's *A Room for London* programme. This also includes *A London Address*, a series of monthly writings and recordings, and *Ideas for London*, a competition in association with the London Evening Standard to uncover Londoners' most remarkable ideas to make their city a better place.

For further press information or images, please contact Emily Bromfield at [emily@artangel.org.uk](mailto:emily@artangel.org.uk) or Anna Larkin at [anna@artangel.org.uk](mailto:anna@artangel.org.uk) or call + 44 20 7713 1400.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

[www.aroomforlondon.co.uk](http://www.aroomforlondon.co.uk)

### Public Information

All performance relayed live onto screens at Southbank Centre are free and guests will be admitted on a first come first served basis.

Address: Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX  
Telephone: +44(0)844 875 0073  
Website: [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

*A Room for London* is a major new collaboration between Artangel and Living Architecture, in association with Southbank Centre. It is a one-bedroom architectural installation in the form of a riverboat. Taking inspiration from Joseph Conrad's book *Heart of Darkness* and *Roi de Belges* (the boat he captained in the Congo in 1890) it was designed by David Kohn Architects, in collaboration with artist Fiona Banner. Built by Living Architecture as part of their programme of making great architecture available to the public, *A Room for London* will be in situ throughout 2012 and occupied by members of the public who have pre-booked to stay there. The Artangel programme is part of the London 2012 Festival.

**LIVING ARCHITECTURE** is a new organisation dedicated to using world-class architects to build houses for rent around the UK. Also available: The RIBA award-winning Balancing Barn (by MVRDV), The Shingle House (by NORD Architecture), The Dune House (by Jarmund/Vignæs Architects) and The Long House (by Hopkins Architects). [www.living-architecture.co.uk](http://www.living-architecture.co.uk)

**ARTANGEL** commissions and produces exceptional projects by outstanding contemporary artists. Over the past two decades, the projects have materialised in a range of different sites and situations and in countless forms of media. Artangel is generously supported by Arts Council England, the Artangel International Circle, Special Angels and the Company of Angels. *A Room for London's* monthly programme is devised by Sophie Howarth, Laura Barton, James Lingwood and Michael Morris. [www.artangel.org.uk](http://www.artangel.org.uk)

**SOUTHBANK CENTRE** is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 *Festival of Britain*. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and the Hayward Gallery as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. *A Room for London* forms part of Southbank Centre's summer-long Festival of the World with MasterCard, 1 June to 9 September 2012. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

**DAVID KOHN ARCHITECTS** is a young London-based practice founded by David Kohn in 2007. The practice is known for its emphasis on collaboration and attention to detail. Recent completed projects include a rooftop pavilion for the Architecture Foundation, a temporary restaurant for the Royal Academy and a West End contemporary art gallery. Awards include the 2009 Young Architect of the Year and the 2010 One-Off House Architect of the Year for a holiday home in Norfolk. [www.davidkohn.co.uk](http://www.davidkohn.co.uk)

**FIONA BANNER** is an artist. Her work repeatedly explores the themes of narrative and history. For her recent installation *Harrier and Jaguar* she placed two fighter planes in the central atrium of Tate Britain. She has explored the retelling of history through war movies, most notable through her book *The Nam*, which retells major Vietnam films in her own words. [www.fionabanner.com](http://www.fionabanner.com)

### ABOUT THE CULTURAL OLYMPIAD AND LONDON 2012 FESTIVAL

The London 2012 Cultural Olympiad is the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Spread over four years, it is designed to give everyone in the UK a chance to be part of London 2012 and inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people. The culmination of the Cultural Olympiad will be the London 2012 Festival, bringing leading

artists from all over the world together from 21 June 2012 in this UK-wide festival – a chance for everyone to celebrate London 2012 through dance, music, theatre, the visual arts, fashion, film and digital innovation. Principal funders of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival are Arts Council England, Legacy Trust UK and the Olympic Lottery Distributor. BP and BT are Premier Partners of the Cultural Olympiad and the London 2012 Festival. Panasonic are the presenting partner of Film Nation: Shorts. [www.london2012.com/festival](http://www.london2012.com/festival)

**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND** works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, and carnival to crafts. Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves, and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2011 and 2015, the Arts Council will invest £1.4 billion of public money from government and a further £0.85 billion from the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)