



Brighton  
Festival 60

1-25 May 2026

Create Music Presents
















# SOUNDS LIKE US

Sun 24 May



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Thanks to those who wish to remain anonymous

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# WELCOME

to the 60<sup>th</sup> edition of Brighton Festival!

Our great chaotic city of subcultures and beach life has always been a perfect home for creative happenings and artistic collisions. Born in the late 1960s, Brighton Festival embodied that pivotal era, mixing superstar artists with a socially rising counterculture.

Our aim is to re-root the Festival in the city, to revisit the unique essence of Brighton Festival that has endured for so many decades, and to spread our arms wide to conversations and invitations across our city, the nation and the world.

Our programming team, all passionate and knowledgeable about their art forms, have created a stellar line-up for you over three weeks and four weekends, driven to turbo-charge our city with creative energy and to deliver incredible memory-making events.

For the first time, we are producing a piece of original theatre to open Brighton Festival. Created by one of the most visionary directors of his generation, Omar Elerian, *Kohlhaas* will show you Brighton Dome Corn Exchange as it has never been seen before.

The whole Festival Corn Exchange programme offers unique theatrical experiences, re-imagining what is surely one of the most beautiful creative spaces in this whole country.

I am thrilled to place land art, visual art and social sculpture at the centre of Brighton

Festival with a major new commission for Ivan Morison and Heather Peak, their love letter to the city where they trained and met. And to be staging some pure legends of global music in Brighton Dome Concert Hall.

We have used regenerative thinking throughout the Festival, to be as sustainable and circular as we can be; to add rather than extract. This is particularly true of Our Place, with 2026 marking ten years of co-creating Festival events and hosting resident artists across the city each May.

I stand on so many shoulders in bringing this 60<sup>th</sup> edition of Brighton Festival to you. Wholehearted thanks and acknowledgement must go to the many people, and our funders, sponsors and supporters who truly make it happen.

We relished every moment of putting this anniversary Festival together for you, and we hope you will accept our invitation to celebrate together.

**Lucy Davies, Chief Executive**

*In the dark times  
Will there also be singing?  
Yes, there will also be singing  
About the dark times.*

**Brecht, 1939**

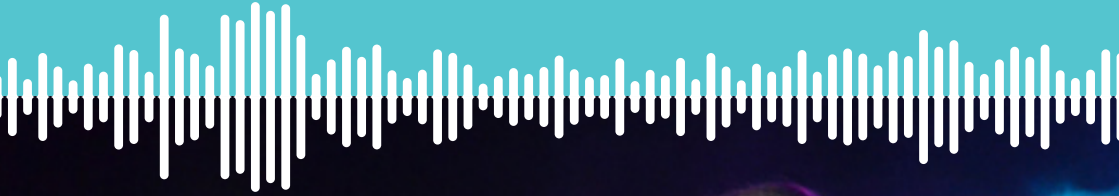


Create Music

Create Music Presents

# Sounds Like Us

SUN 24 MAY



Youth-led events  
featuring visual  
art, poetry and  
music



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**Brighton  
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# Introduction to the event

*Sounds Like Us* is a brand-new, youth-curated event premiering at Brighton Festival 2026. Celebrating the 60th edition of Brighton Festival, young creatives aged 14–25 re-imagine and regenerate music and creative expression from 60 years ago, blending the sounds, influences and artistic styles of the 1960s with the culture they engage with today.

*Sounds Like Us* brings together the work and voices of many creative young people from across Brighton & Hove, East and West Sussex. It has grown from the work of Create Music and Future Creators, with youth voice, providing a space where young creatives can design and curate, not just participate.

It is a true privilege to bring you the work of our visual artists, performers and dedicated youth panel, all of whom have lent their talent to make this event possible.



# Sounds Like Us - Exhibition

We are excited to present a range of work from 6 local artists aged 18-25. Each artist has taken inspiration from music, art and culture from the 1960s and reimagined it with their own influences, interests and inspirations. Included in the work is a range of paint on canvas, audio visual art, photography and mixed media works.

Our visual artists have also spent the past month curating the exhibition in Brighton Dome's Studio Theatre. The sharing boldly invites audiences into the voice and experience of young people on their terms.



# Biographies



## **Amber Lucia**

Amber Lucia, (she/they) is a multidisciplinary artist working across digital art, painting and moving image, exploring themes of identity and belonging. They will be creating a mixed-media artwork blending painting, collage and digital art, exploring how 1960s counterculture continues to echo

through contemporary youth identity and music culture today. As a queer non-binary artist, she plans to explore how collective experiences can foster connection and visibility.

[@amberlucia.png](#)



## **Esmé Clarke**

Currently based in Shoreham-by-Sea, Esmé Clarke is an acrylic painter who is drawn to embracing an unconventional, vibrant colour palette within her deeply emotive portraiture. Captivated by the nostalgic moments and hidden narratives amongst vintage photography, both personal and

found, she hopes to renew their fleeting memories, transforming them into timeless pieces for her viewers to universally resonate with no matter their generation. Approaching this exciting opportunity, Esmé cannot wait to share her artistic vision whilst celebrating the 60th edition of Brighton Festival.

[@esmeclarke.art](#)



### **Iris Flynt**

Iris Flynt is a multimedia artist and workshop facilitator inspired by archives, community, heritage, nostalgia, folklore and nature. They love exploring different ways of combining media, such as animating using textiles. Iris is excited to work on a piece to highlight the diversity of Brighton's young music scene. @iris.flynt



### **Cherry Daphne Kemp**

Cherry Kemp is a young photographer aspiring to see the beauty in everything. She has photographed a 60s driven montage of a female figure based off Lesley Gore's music - specifically focusing on her lyric use and how these ties into the ongoing gender struggles. @cdkphotography



### **Jodie Underwood**

Jodie Underwood (they/ he/she) is a 22-year-old oil painter based in Brighton. They paint the body in all its forms, with a particular focus on queerness and transgender bodies, often pulling from their own experiences and those close to them.

**@jodieroseart**



### **Sith Hettiarachchi**

Sith is a final year Fashion Communication student based in Brighton working across film and photography, alongside his creative output Douwe (douwe.uk). Sith's practice explores identity through visual culture and his Sri Lankan roots, using distortion and layering to reflect the tension between individuality and mass culture. **@sith.dwz**

# Sounds Like Us - Performance

We're proud to showcase this live programme of performance from young performers, poets and musicians aged 14–19. Enjoy an evening of music, performance and spoken word as the young performers take you on a journey from the 1960s to today, mixing sounds and culture from the 1960s with their own identities, music, and influences from the present.

The evening begins with an intimate, acoustic and poetry-led first half, before opening out into a more energetic, band-focused second half - creating a dynamic journey through different styles and sounds.

Each act has been selected through an audition process, bringing together a diverse mix of creative voices, influences, and styles. We're excited for you to experience what they've been creating.

Across music, performance and creative expression, these young people showcase not only their talent, but their commitment to developing their creative skills and finding their own creative voices.



# Running Order:

Delilah

Tilda

Rosalie

The Hiding Place

Teleology

*INTERVAL*

Kumba

Blue Moon

RARE FLOWERS

# Performers



## **Delilah**

Delilah has been writing poetry since she was 8 and always found something special in poetry. As a way of self-expression, it has allowed her to use her voice and tell all kinds of stories. Delilah wants her words to reach out to all generations, and she hopes people find something to connect with, however small.



## **Tilda**

Singer-songwriter Tilda Amelie has been writing her own indie-folk music for the past three years. She sings solo and plays acoustic guitar and is inspired by nature, deep emotion, childhood nostalgia, and love. She is passionate about performing her music and aspires to record and perform professionally with other musicians. For her set inspired by 60s Folk music, she will be performing a mixture of her own original songs and covers.

# Performers



## **Rosalie**

Rosalie Arnold is a 15 years old performance poet who is super excited to perform some spoken word at Brighton Festival. Rosalie will be drawing influences from the classic poets of the 60s and the modern lyricists and writers of today.



## **The Hiding Place**

The Hiding Place is a Brighton Based singer-songwriter, Eve who will sing and perform on both a twelve-string guitar and six-string guitar. Though she usually plays as part of her indie-rock band, she is excited to be performing an acoustic set for this gig. Many of her musical influences are acts from the 60s, like The Velvet Underground, Bob Dylan, Nico, The Stooges, The Rolling Stones, Joan Baez, and François Hardy. These have fed heavily into The Hiding

Place's own songwriting, and as part of this set, they will be performing some of their originals alongside covers. The Hiding Place love to include interweaving guitar parts in our playing and use frequent vocal harmonies to add a sense of layering in our idiosyncratic polyphonic textures.

# Performers



## **Teleology**

Teleology are a group of rock-obsessed kids who yearn to perform and create music. The band consists of Isla Caskin who is the bassist, Evie Eason who is the guitarist, Ben Brown who is the drummer, and vocalists Lily Jones and Lucy Cobby. Teleology are performing their own song and doing rock covers of some classic 60s songs.



## **Kumba**

Kumba is a 15-year-old self-taught singer with an old soul, inspired by 60s jazz and soul. She loves mixing classic sounds with a bit of a modern twist and making music that connects with people. Kumba's style is all about emotions, whether it's a smooth jazz vibe or something more upbeat, she wants the audience to feel what she's feeling. Kumba is super excited to be part of Sounds Like Us at Brighton Festival and can't wait to share her music with everyone.

# Performers



## **Blue Moon**

Blue Moon are a group of friends from London and Sussex who love playing music together and play a mix of pop and rock. The band includes Joe on drums, George on bass, Jasper on guitar, Oakley on rhythm guitar / vocals and Chloe on lead vocals, sax and keys. For the performance, Blue Moon have been busy creating a fresh version of a classic, as well as an original track that will sound like it came straight from the 60's.



## **RARE FLOWERS**

RARE FLOWERS are an up-and-coming grunge/shoe gaze band from Bognor Regis made up of Elliott (singer/guitar), Aron (lead guitar), Kian (guitar), Jude (drums), and Scott (bass). They are buzzing to be playing their debut single at Brighton Festival.

# Staff List and Thanks

## **Youth Panel**

Thank you to our Youth Panel who have been essential in creating these events and ensuring they represent and speak to the young people of Sussex. The following young creative professionals have shaped both events, selecting the performers and artists, curating the structure, and lending their own creative skills and knowledge to enhance the experience.

## **Amber Lucia Gibbins**

Amber Lucia (she/they) is a Brighton based multidisciplinary artist exploring the intersection of contemporary art with technology. They are also a workshop facilitator and organise events. @amberlucia.png

## **Emily Mort**

Emily (she/her) is a musician, performer and creative based in Brighton and currently studying at BN1 Arts.

## **Kitty McCarron**

Kitty (she/her) is 22 and based in St Leonard's. She uses audio to tell stories across radio and podcasting, with a focus on young people, community, and the art of listening.

## **Luka Mechergui**

Luka (he/him) is a sussex based musician, performer and creative that has previously been a part of Coastal Catalysts' youth panel shaping creative opportunity for young people across the region.

## **Serena Cobbinah**

Serena Cobbinah (she/her) is a current Law student with an interest in the intersection between community, advocacy, and creation.

## **Producers from Create Music and Future Creators**

Azra Thorlby

Emma Staples

Nancy Batters

Sarah Woodmansey

Thank you to the following Create Music and Future Creators staff members for your support

Beth Munroe, Chris Simmonds, Emma Collins, Kate Regester, Peter Chivers, Rory Collins, Simon Smith

# Create Music

We are the region's leading provider of high-quality, inclusive music and arts education together with performance opportunities in the South East. Taking in Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother, Wealden and the surrounding areas we offer children, young people and adults the chance to explore their passion for music through lessons, ensembles, projects, workshops, orchestras and summer schools. At Create Music, the Hub Lead Organisation for the Sussex Music Hub, our mission is to centre the voices of children, young people and adults in our cities, towns and villages.

# Future Creators

Future Creators connects young people with opportunities to build creative skills and shape their futures. Working with schools, employers and community partners, we create projects, workshops and workplace experiences that help young people explore their potential and take their next steps with confidence. Across Brighton & Hove, Littlehampton, Bognor Regis and the wider Sussex region, we open up inclusive pathways into creative careers and break down barriers to access. Future Creators is the lead partner of Coastal Catalyst, a major place-based programme working to strengthen the creative ecosystem along the Sussex Coastal Corridor and connecting young people with meaningful opportunities. Follow us on LinkedIn, or if you're a young person, join us on Instagram to discover opportunities near you (@futurecreatorsuk).

## Photography

Create Music has a duty of care to all children and young people who take part in the activities we provide. We recognise that parents/carers may wish to take photographs or videos of their children in public performances. For safeguarding reasons, please respect the privacy of others performing and ensure that photographs/videos are for personal use only and not shared on social media. Thank you.



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# Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival

Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival (BDBF) is the leading arts charity on the south coast, presenting over 600 performances annually with an audience reach of 500,000. BDBF uniquely combines a historic live performance venue, **Brighton Dome**; England's leading annual mixed-arts festival, **Brighton Festival**; and the music education hub across Sussex, **Create Music**.

Brighton Dome is the cultural heart of the city comprising three live performance venues under one iconic Brighton Dome roof — Brighton Dome Concert Hall, Corn Exchange and Studio Theatre — presenting a year-round programme of music, dance, theatre, comedy, talks and more. Brighton Festival is the largest curated multi-arts Festival in England and celebrates its 60th edition this May. Create Music is the music-education hub, across Brighton & Hove, East and West Sussex, engaging over 26,000 students annually.




Our purpose is to present extraordinary, memorable live experiences to energise and inspire audiences and participants. We commission and support local, national and international artists and companies, facilitating the development and delivery of bold new work of the highest quality. Brighton is a place of openness, activism, experimentation and possibility, and we aim to reflect these qualities back to our audiences in all that we do.

Located on the Royal Pavilion Estate, Brighton Dome's venues have a rich history spanning over 200 years, providing extraordinary spaces in which to bring the arts alive. A major capital refurbishment project to restore and protect the Grade I and Grade II listed Corn Exchange and Studio Theatre has recently been completed, including a creation space for artists, Anita's Room, making it a landmark centre for the arts and equipping it for a sustainable future.

Create Music, our music-education service and music hub for Brighton & Hove and East and West Sussex, is the region's leading provider of high-quality, inclusive music and arts education. In Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother, Wealden and the surrounding areas we work in 270 schools. We offer children and young people the chance to explore their passion for music through lessons, ensembles, projects, workshops, summer schools and orchestras. The Brighton & East Sussex Youth Orchestra regularly performs as part of Brighton Festival and tours internationally each year. Create Music is also one of the only music hubs in the country to have established a regional network of inclusive ensembles with our award-winning Orchestra360 programme, which now operates in Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne, Hastings, Rother and Wealden.

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*'Emma Rice takes Blyton to the top of the class!'*

The Guardian

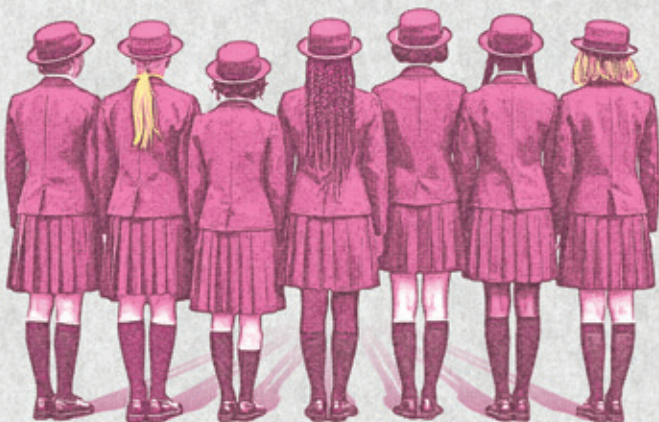
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## Pay It Forward

Join the Pay It Forward movement and help more people experience Brighton Festival. Pay an extra £5 when you book your tickets, or donate online, and we'll put this towards giving a free ticket to someone who might not otherwise be able to attend.

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Image: David McHugh



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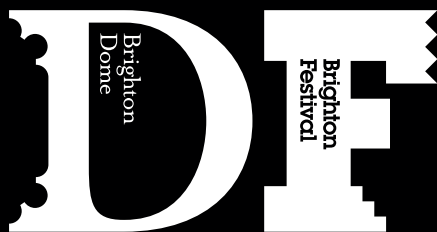
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**Cafe Rust** Five sites, serving lunch, brunches, coffee, cakes, pastries. 10% off food in May. [caferust.com](http://caferust.com)



**Dishoom Permit Room** A tribute to the way that Bombay cuts loose. Drop in for round-the-clock deliciousness: breakfast, lunch, dinner, cocktails! And enjoy a cocktail or teetotal on them with every breakfast dish ordered 9.30am-11.30am. [permitroom.co.uk](http://permitroom.co.uk)



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**Ridgeview** Award-winning English sparkling wine from the Heart of Sussex. Enjoyed with food, shared with friends or at life's celebratory moments, Ridgeview captures the best of English wine. [ridgeview.co.uk](http://ridgeview.co.uk)



**Terre à Terre** An exceptional independent restaurant specialising in vegetarian and vegan food, delivering outstanding service, imaginative dishes and a distinctive drinks offering. [terreaterre.co.uk](http://terreaterre.co.uk)

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