



**Lancaster
Arts**
invites you
to our autumn
2026 season on
Dissent



Hello everyone

We are proud to welcome you to our Autumn 2026 season celebrating dissent, particularly the playful shows as illustrated by our cover image from **Cold Sweat** by **Forced Entertainment** with its comical, and unsettling response to the world of today.

This vein of humour and the absurd runs throughout our performance programme from **A Song and Dance** with **Action Hero**, offering a chaotic nightmare about performing and 'acting the part' to **L'Addition** with **Bert and Nasi** playing with notions of power through a farcical narrative of a waiter and a diner. Dissent also lies in the flipping of expectations such as in **Thanks for Being Here** by **Ontroerend Goed**, where the audience itself is the focus of the show.

The idea of the audience or the visitor directly influencing the artwork is also at the heart of the Peter Scott Gallery this autumn with Peter Fillingham's very colourful **Fruit Salad**. For **Dissent Works**, our first Open show in decades, we have invited artists from across the region to show work that will sit alongside the University art collections.

Reinvention continues with **Seke Chimutengwende** and dancers returning to the Nuffield Theatre for **The Last Quartet** which imagines a "last work" or a "last attempt" at choreography.

Our concert season brings brand new faces and sounds to the Great Hall and features the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** with the European premiere of Byron Adams' Cello Concerto, with soloist Simon Tetzlaff. We are honoured to have renowned guitarist **Sean Shibe** perform a fantastic evening of contemporary classical music. We're also excited to bring the **Kantos Chamber Choir** to perform **Brontë**, a programme of

choral music and spoken word about the relationship between Elizabeth Gaskell and the Brontë sisters, challenging the social expectations and constraints placed upon women of their time.

Our season finishes with **HOMELANDS**, an audio-visual concert that explores ideas of belonging with award-winning Lancaster-based cellist **Maja Bugge**.

As always, there will be post show conversations, our Artists in Conversation series and other special events so, to be sure of catching it all, please make sure you are on our mailing list.

And finally, Lancaster Arts is partnering with the Gregson Centre in Lancaster to bring you the **Festival of Dissent** on 5 September with exciting new commissions, music, films, walks, and creative workshops.

This season on the theme of Dissent brings artists who are exploring hope, absurdity, limitless possibilities and new beginnings. We hope you can join us.

The Lancaster Arts team:

Jack Bond, Communications and Marketing Manager

Alice Booth, Creative Producer

Sarah Boulter, Curator

Jacob Cordingley, Assistant Curator

Jocelyn Cunningham, Director

Daria Leri, Production Assistant

Serena Mansfield, Operations and Planning Manager

John Newman-Holden, Technician

Michael Poll, Concert Programmer

Adam Robinson, Collections Support Coordinator

Konrad Watson, Production Manager

Festival of Dissent

Free Event

11am til late
Saturday 5 September
The Gregson
Tickets: Free, booking
required
Age: All ages
Full programme announced
soon

Join us for a festival of curiosity, creativity and unexpected encounters, in partnership with The Gregson Community and Arts Centre.

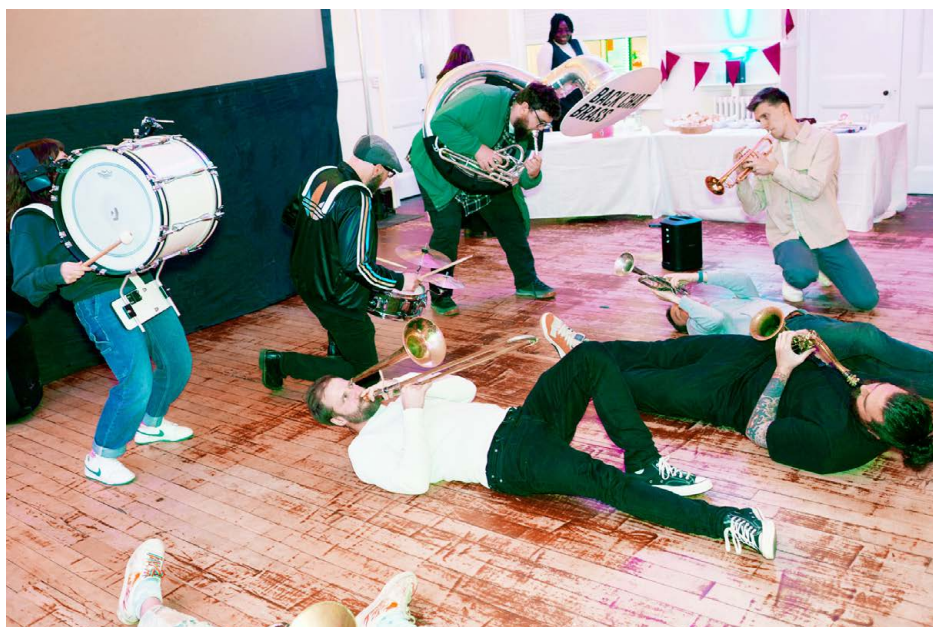
We often think of dissent as protest or public action. But every act of dissent begins somewhere. Perhaps it begins with the moment you question something you've always accepted. The decision to do things differently. The courage to imagine another way.

Throughout the day you'll discover new commissions, installations, music, film, walks, creative workshops, conversations and opportunities to explore, make and take part across the Gregson and beyond.

There is no single way to experience the festival. Stay for an hour or spend the whole day. Come curious. Leave a little changed.

'Joy is an act of resistance'

Toi Derricotte from the poem, The Telly Cycle



Dissent Works

Exhibition

11am-5pm Monday – Friday
28 September – 17 October
Peter Scott Gallery
Price: Free

Lancaster Arts is really excited to offer our first Open exhibition in many years! Over the summer we invited artists from across north Lancashire to submit artwork on the theme of dissent.

The chosen works will be brought together with selections from the Lancaster University art collections to shape a dynamic, playful and provocative exhibition. It is an evolving collection and a living resource that inspires new conversations between artists, audiences and ideas.

This exhibition will explore the many ways dissent can be expressed through artistic practice. It might be loud or quiet, public or personal, but at its heart is a willingness to ask whether things could be different.



Ontroerend Goed: Thanks for Being Here

Performance: Theatre

7.30pm
Friday 9 October
Nuffield Theatre
Tickets: £12-16
Duration: 75 mins
Age: 14+

Content: Audiences will be filmed, but the videos will not be used

Following last season's *Handle with Care*, a theatre piece in a box, Belgium-based Ontroerend Goed return to the Nuffield Theatre with their new show that flips the relationship between performer and audience.

Thanks for Being Here is an ode to the audience. Because without one, there is no theatre. The fact that you are now reading this text, perhaps buying a ticket, and will soon spend an hour in a room full of strangers, not knowing what's to come – we find that deeply hopeful. And worth celebrating.

On stage: us. In the audience: you. We will watch. Ourselves, but especially each other, as a group. We'll switch roles. Maybe you'll see yourself, as part of the audience, or even as a character. Without you, there would be no performance. So thank you for being here.

Ontroerend Goed (a punning name, roughly translated as "Feel Estate") has been creating interactive theatre for over 20 years for people who don't particularly like interactive theatre, and they will take your expectations into account. They produce self-devised work grounded in the here and now, inviting audiences to participate as well as observe, and have received multiple awards from festivals across Europe, Australia and North America.

'Radically hopeful'
De Morgen ★★★★★



Forced Entertainment: Cold Sweat

Performance: Theatre

7.30pm
Wednesday 14 October
Nuffield Theatre
Tickets: £12-16
Duration: 90 mins
Age: 14+

Content: Strong Language, the themes and approach require concentration from the audience

Lancaster Arts is thrilled to be welcoming back Forced Entertainment for Cold Sweat, with original texts and sound from the group's artistic director Tim Etchells.

Layering music loops with AI-generated voices, we find ourselves in a play of some kind. Or a TV soap. Fragments of a drama bound together by a mood of emotional and physical overload.

The figures onstage are channelling confusion, struggling to articulate desires, dreams and uncertainties. Digging deeper into the lip-syncing mode they established in 2024's Signal to Noise, Forced Entertainment's virtuoso performers map their bodies to the strange rhythms and tonalities that the nonhuman AI voices produce. The result is an absurd, comical, unsettling and poetic contemporary theatre.

Forced Entertainment is an ensemble of six artists that have been touring and presenting their ground-breaking provocative performances across the UK and further afield for 40 years. The work explores and often explodes the conventions of genre, narrative and theatre itself.

"Cold Sweat, faced with this somewhat anxiety-inducing and soulless future looming over the world of creation and the performing arts, is nothing less than a manifest act of resistance."

Un Fauteuil Pour L'Orchestre, Paris



Tim Etchells / Bert & Nasi: L'Addition

Performance: Theatre

7.30pm

Friday 16 October

Nuffield Theatre

Tickets: £12-16

Duration: 75 mins

Age: 12+

Content: Reasonably loud music, mild swearing, high intensity

Join us in the Nuffield Theatre as creative forces combine in L'Addition, a hilarious and absurd collaboration between Forced Entertainment's Tim Etchells and performance duo Bert and Nasi.

Two performers armed with (or trapped in) a single scene – a customer orders a drink from a waiter. And then things go awry.

Played again and again, the scene starts spinning out of control. Nightmarish spiral or grotesque farce? Roles flip back and forth. Who's serving and who's being served? L'Addition orchestrates a complex, hilarious and explosive performance from simple materials.

Together, the three of them play with the mechanisms of theatre as much as with power relationships – but in the end, someone has to pay the bill.

Bertrand Lesca and Nasi Voutsas are a contemporary performance duo whose work is stripped back and minimalist, lying somewhere between performance, dance and theatre. Tim Etchells is an artist and a writer, as well as the Artistic Director of Forced Entertainment.

"with a striking economy of effect, Bert and Nasi are worthy heirs to Monty Python".

Télérama



Peter Fillingham: Fruit Salad

Exhibition

11am-5pm Monday – Friday
2 November – 4 December
Peter Scott Gallery
Price: Free

Please join us for our
Season Celebration in the
Peter Scott Gallery on
5 November at 5.30pm

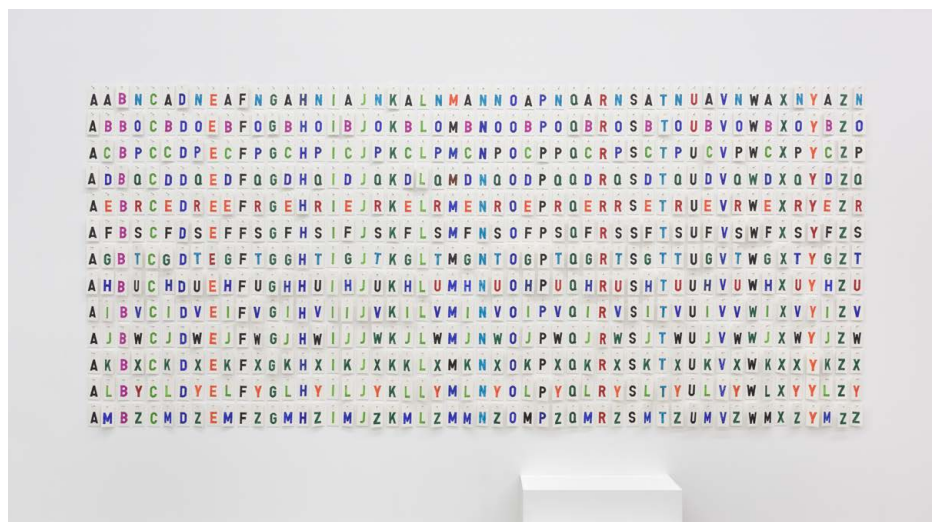
In a year of celebrating sculpture, Lancaster Arts is delighted to invite renowned sculptor, Peter Fillingham to fill the Peter Scott Gallery with an explosion of colour.

Fruit Salad brings together a collection of new and previously exhibited works that playfully explore ideas of dissent, and the vital role that art has in the world right now, valuing the unconventional and unruly, the vulnerable, makeshift and unfixed. Peter employs colour in every aspect of his work, often "found" colour, gently reminding us that the image of a glorious past is, indeed, a fantasy. The reality is one of multiplicity, joyful artifice and eccentricity. He hands us a fruit salad – messy, colourful and provocative.

Peter has exhibited internationally and in the UK, often in project or artist-run spaces, village halls and places where art is integrated into everyday life. He is a collaborative artist who has worked with many different creative figures such as Tacita Dean, Rasheed Araeen, Charlotte Moth and Derek Jarman.

"Peter loves to tell stories. He is a confluence of the oral traditions of both his parents, and of high and low art...as well as a great deal of humour and playfulness, camaraderie and spirit, sometimes mixed with a touch of whimsy."

Tacita Dean, artist



Action Hero: A Song and Dance

Performance: Theatre

7.30pm

Thursday 5 November

Nuffield Theatre

Tickets: £12-16

Duration: 60 mins

Age: 12+

Content: References to
mental health

Please join us for our Season
Celebration in the Peter Scott
Gallery at 5.30pm

Lancaster Arts welcomes Action Hero back to the Nuffield Theatre with A Song and Dance, an absurdist nightmare of a performance about masking, performing and 'acting the part'.

Action Hero are definitely not making a scene. Lost inside a recurring nightmare, a reluctant actor returns to the stage. In an attempt to conquer an 8-year period of intense stage fright, he is replaying his own autobiography and starting to lose the plot.

But he's not gonna make a big song and dance about it. Instead, he's determined to keep the show on the road, re-writing his anxiety dreams live on stage in the hope of banishing the ghosts of performances past.

Action Hero is the renowned collaboration between artists Gemma Paintin and James Stenhouse, creating artworks that explore what it is to be human now. From stage to page to audio to immersive interaction, they create structures for people to experience alternative ways of being together.

"thrillingly funny and strange...Beckett's hip, pop-culture savvy descendants"

Time Out London



Kantos Chamber Choir: Brontë

Concert

7.30pm
Thursday 12 November
Great Hall
Tickets: £12-£25
Duration: 90 mins
Pre-show conversation

Concert Programme
Includes

Helen Neeves

Speak of the North!

John Ireland

The Hills

Trad. arr. Charlie Perry

Black is the Colour of My

True Love's Hair

John Tavener

Funeral Ikos

Plus words by Emily Gaskell,
Charlotte and Emily Brontë

Please visit website for full
programme

'I read for the same reason that I ate or drank; because it was a real craving of nature.'

Lancaster Arts welcomes Kantos Chamber Choir to the Great Hall for the very first time, with an evening that combines choral music and spoken word, inspired by the lives and imaginations of one of literature's most extraordinary families.

Seen through the eyes of their friend and champion, Elizabeth Gaskell, audiences are transported to the windswept Yorkshire moors. Here Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë wrote stories filled with desire, devotion, depravity and despair, challenging the social expectations and constraints placed upon women of their time.

Elizabeth Gaskell specialist, Dr Sherry Ashworth, joins Kantos as co-curator and presenter for this unique performance.

We are delighted to offer a pre-concert discussion between Dr Sherry Ashworth and Ellie Slorach (Creative Director - Kantos Chamber Choir) about how this programme came together.

'a gripping hour of storytelling genius'
aAh! Magazine



Seke Chimutengwende: The Last Quartet

Performance: Dance

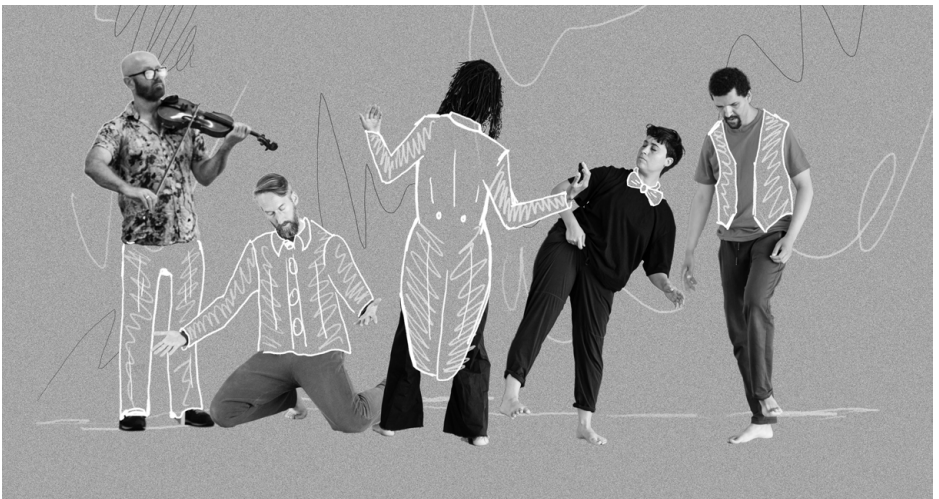
7.30pm
Friday 13 November
Nuffield Theatre
Tickets: £12-16
Duration: 60 mins
Age: 12+

Seke Chimutengwende returns to the Nuffield Theatre with his first show here since 2023's *It Begins In Darkness*. The *Last Quartet* imagines a "last work" or a "last attempt" at choreography.

Four dancers are figuring everything out through movement - how to begin, how to connect, how to change, how to end - leaving fleeting traces of scenes, relationships, and characters for the audience to contemplate. They share the stage with composer Jamie McCarthy, whose elegiac, electro-acoustic score evokes the slow and sudden changes of weather systems and cloud formations.

Seke is thinking about this "last work" as an opportunity to go back to the beginning; back to the core elements of dancing and music, to imagine them anew. The *Last Quartet* offers a glimpse of limitless possibilities and new beginnings in this current moment where hope is scarce and futures lie everywhere in ruins.

Seke Chimutengwende is a choreographer, performer, movement director and teacher. The *Last Quartet* is inspired by T.S. Eliot's 'Four Quartets'.



Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: Against the Tide

Concert

7pm

Thursday 19 November

Great Hall

Tickets: £12-£28

Duration: 92 mins, including interval

Save 10% on tickets for other concerts when you book this one!

Concert Programme

Mendelssohn

Die Schoene Melusine

Byron Adams

Cello Concerto

Maconchy

Variazioni Concertanti

Faure

Pelléas et Melisande Suite

Lancaster Arts are very proud to welcome the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to the Great Hall in their 80th anniversary year. The four works in this programme resist the grand gestures and massive scale often associated with orchestral romanticism, choosing instead intimacy and the power of individual voices.

At the heart of the programme is the European premiere of Adams' Cello Concerto, with an emphasis on collaboration rather than confrontation. We are honoured to have cello soloist Simon Tetzlaff, who was recently named Young Talent of the Year 2026 by Opus Klassik, and is the recipient of the Janos Starker Foundation Award of 2024.

Fauré's Pelléas et Mélisande concludes the evening with a masterpiece of restraint and atmosphere, demonstrating Fauré's quietly radical refusal of excess, in an age increasingly drawn to spectacle.

This September, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will be celebrating 80 years of bringing orchestral music to audiences across the country and around the world. We are delighted to announce that the conductor for the evening will be Michael Poll. Alongside being the classical music programmer for Lancaster Arts, Michael has performed and recorded three times previously with the RPO.

'The RPO were on fire, with power and intensity combined with electric precision at pace.'

Backtrack



Sean Shibe: Echoes and Reinventions

Concert

7.30pm

Thursday 3 December

Great Hall

Tickets: £12-£25

Duration: 98 mins, including interval

Concert Programme

Alonso Mudarra

Fantasia VII and X

Joaquin Rodrigo

Tres piezas españolas

Francisco Coll

Sefarad

John Dowland

Praeludium

Forlorn Hope Fancy

Fantasia

Thomas Adès

Forgotten Dances, for guitar

Sean Shibe is a boundary-pushing force in contemporary classical music and will play the Great Hall for the first time with a programme that traces the history of guitar music.

Placing music by contemporary composers Francisco Coll and Thomas Adès alongside works by Renaissance masters Alonso Mudarra and John Dowland, this striking programme reveals unexpected connections across five centuries of music.

Sean is a Grammy-nominated guitarist, widely praised for his original programming. He is an ardent supporter of contemporary music, regularly collaborating with composers to experiment with and expand the guitar repertoire. Sean is a three-time Gramophone Award winner, former BBC New Generation Artist, recipient of the 2022 Leonard Bernstein Award, and a Professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. His latest solo album *Profesión* was awarded the 2024 BBC Music Magazine Award. Last year he played with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra at the 2025 BBC Proms.

"Shibe's music-making is masterful, beautiful and convincing in every way"
The Times



Maja Bugge: HOMELANDS

Concert

7.30pm

Friday 4 December

Nuffield Theatre

Tickets: £12-16

Duration: 60 mins

Post-show discussion

Maja Bugge: Cello

Dave Evans: Piano

Adam York Gregory: Visuals

Post-show conversation

Specially created for Lancaster Arts, HOMELANDS is an audio-visual concert that explores ideas of belonging. Award-winning cellist Maja Bugge will be joined by regular collaborators; pianist Dave Evans and film-maker Adam York Gregory.

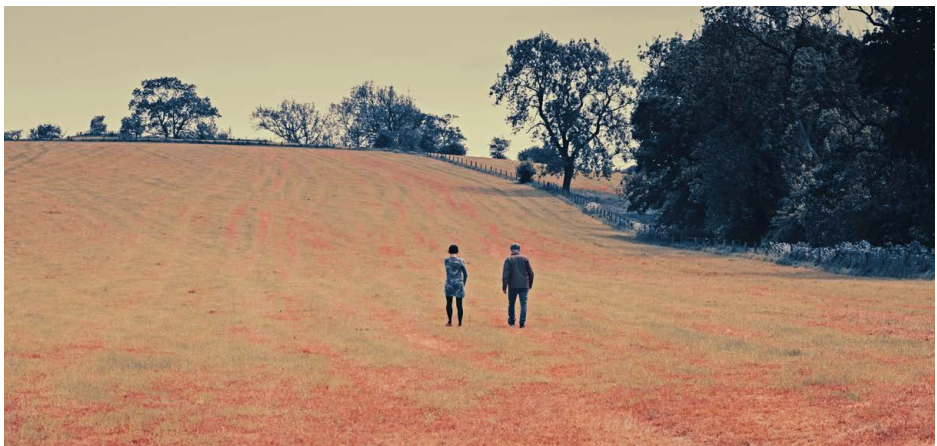
Maja was born in Norway and been resident in the north of England since 2010. The project continues her long-held fascination for place-inspired composition. Her work invites the listener to imagine and experience the landscape anew through playful and meditative composition and improvisation.

Maja and Adam first worked together in NORTHERN in 2018, a project integrating film, field recordings and cello that explored Lancaster amongst other locations. In 2023, Maja, Adam and Dave travelled to Norway to make SORTLAND, a response to the city where she grew up. The music from this project has recently been released on a CD of the same name.

Bringing these projects together for the first time, as well as adding a little bit more to the mix, HOMELANDS promises to be a unique exploration and celebration of place and identity.

"Maja's music is activism"

Anne Yven- Jazz News Norway



Artists in Conversation

5pm Tuesdays
Free, please book

In partnership with Lancaster University
School of Arts and Fine Art
In person in the LICA Building Laboratory
Space A036

Join us for our free artist conversation programme. Artists making exciting work across a range of media will be joined by researchers or those working in relevant fields to discuss the ideas, themes and questions driving their work. This programme is interactive and we encourage audiences to join in the conversations.

Parham Ghalamdar
13 October

Parham is an Iranian-British multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker, whose work traces forgotten mythologies, buried philosophies, and visual ruins. His practice moves between material work and moving image to examine war and exile, belief and technology. Approaching dissent through its root sense of feeling or thinking apart, his work questions the systems through which violence and history gain visibility.

Peter Fillingham
27 October

Peter Fillingham is a sculptor whose work transforms overlooked found materials that are often perceived to have low cultural or economic value, into sculptural forms and installations with a theatrical quality. He draws inspiration from his bi-racial heritage, as well as improvised and accidental material encounters, combining ephemeral elements and formal sculptural language. Peter's exhibition is in the Peter Scott Gallery from 2 November to 11 December.



Artists in Conversation

Rachel MacLean 3 November

Rachel creates video and installations that explore how digital technology shapes the way we see and experience the modern world. In an unmistakable saccharine palette, her characters and settings reflect and anticipate contemporary culture. Her work shifts quickly between sharp satire and playful humour, capturing both the anxieties and the exciting possibilities of living in an increasingly digital world.

Technologica Collective 10 November

Technologica is a collective co-founded by Lancaster University Fine Art graduates Emir Johnston and Orisa Pather. They explore the intersections of art, philosophy, and technology, investigating how physical realities are shaped by emerging digital cultures. Founded on the principles of collaboration and an open-source mindset, Technologica creates spaces where knowledge, and creative processes can be shared freely.



How to find us

Accessibility

We warmly welcome disabled patrons. Please inform us if you have any access requirements at the time of your booking. During your visit do not hesitate to approach any staff member for assistance. Guide or assistance dogs are welcome. Full details can be found on our website. Contact **01524 594151** or **boxoffice@lancasterarts.org** for more information.

Driving?

Use the LA1 4YW postcode with your Sat Nav. Exit the M6 motorway at junction 33 and take the A6 north towards Lancaster. Turn right at the third set of traffic lights on the A6 onto the University main drive. Take the first exit left from the roundabout, at the top of the hill, and park in Visitor Zone A.

Visitor Parking is no longer free on campus after 6pm or at weekends. This includes Blue Badge holders. The nearest visitor parking zone is 'A'. Please use the pay and display machines, which are card only, or the RingGo app on your smart phone. Parking is managed by Lancaster University and full information can be found on their website. Please follow the QR code below that will take you straight there.

Buses run every 5 – 20 minutes from the city centre to campus. For timetables contact Stagecoach or call 'Traveline' on 0871 200 22 33.

Once on campus follow signs to the Great Hall Complex (GHC)



- Peter Scott Gallery
- Nuffield Theatre
- Great Hall
- School of Arts
- The Ruskin
- Entrances
- Sports Centre
- Parking Machine

New Lancaster Arts Supporter Benefits

Keen to discover new artistic experiences? Become a Supporter for £40 a year and save up to 20% on all adult tickets.

Your support makes a real difference and helps us create an ambitious commissioning programme that enables free access for all to take part.

This season we're introducing more exclusive benefits for Supporters!

Limited places available for each event so prior booking will be required.

Head to our website or use this QR code to find out more.



28 September

Join us for a Private View of the DISSENT WORKS exhibition, meet the artists, learn more about the art collection and see this open exhibition before we open the doors to the public.

19 November

Supporters are invited to a reception prior to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for refreshments and a chance to hear from the musicians and our concert programmer and conductor for the evening, Michael Poll.

20 November

Dance artist, Seke Chimutengwende will be in residence at Lancaster Arts for a week, developing a new work based on Miles Davis' groundbreaking 1972 album On The Corner. There will be an opportunity to see this work in progress in a private sharing.



Ticket Information

Purchasing your tickets

Please book your ticket(s) on our website at LancasterArts.org. If you need assistance, email us at boxoffice@lancasterarts.org or call 01524 594151. Tickets can also be purchased on the door (if we are not sold out!).

Ticket Prices

Lancaster Arts charge a booking fee of £1.50. The fee applies per booking so if you book one ticket or four, the fee remains the same. This does not apply to free events. All student/under 26 tickets are £12. Free events are listed on the back of this brochure. Companion tickets are free.

Venue/Show	Band A	Band B	Supporter Band A	Supporter Band B
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra	£28	£26	£23	£21
Great Hall	£25	£23	£21	£19
Nuffield Theatre	£16	-	£13	-

Concert Discount Tickets

If you book for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra you will receive a discount code for 10% off tickets to any of our other Great Hall concerts this season.

City of Sanctuary tickets

We are offering 10 free tickets per show to people who are seeking sanctuary in Lancaster. Please email cityofsanctuary@lancasterarts.org for details.

Student 2-4-1 Ticket Offer

We're encouraging students or under 26s to join a friend with our 2-4-1 offer. If you are a student or under 26 years old you can come to any of our shows or concerts (unless stated otherwise) for just £6 each, when you book two tickets! This offer does not include tickets to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

At a glance

Concerts

7.30pm Thursday 12 November Great Hall	Kantos Chamber Choir: Brontë
7.00pm Thursday 19 November Great Hall	Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: Against the Tide
7.30pm Thursday 3 December Great Hall	Sean Shibe: Echoes and Reinventions
7.30pm Friday 4 December Nuffield Theatre	Maja Bugge: HOMELANDS

Exhibitions

Weekdays 11am–5pm 28 September – 17 October Peter Scott Gallery	Dissent Works
Weekdays 11am–5pm 2 November – 4 December Peter Scott Gallery	Peter Fillingham: Fruit Salad

Performances

7.30pm Friday 9 October Nuffield Theatre	Ontroerend Goed: Thanks for Being Here
7.30pm Wednesday 14 October Nuffield Theatre	Forced Entertainment: Cold Sweat
7.30pm Friday 16 October Nuffield Theatre	Tim Etchells / Bert & Nasi: L'Addition
7.30pm Thursday 5 November Nuffield Theatre	Action Hero: A Song and Dance
7.30pm Friday 13 November Nuffield Theatre	Seke Chimutengwende: The Last Quartet

Free Events

11am til late Saturday 5 September The Gregson Community and Arts Centre	Festival of Dissent
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Box Office

☎ 01524 594151

✉ boxoffice@lancasterarts.org

Please scan to join
our mailing list.

