

# Oram Awards Launch UK-Wide oram/100 Tour Celebrating Daphne Oram's Centenary



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Honouring Daphne Oram's centenary, throughout late 2025 the Oram Awards, in partnership with Outlands Network, is embarking on a tour to uplift and inspire female

# and gender-expansive sound artists and musicians in communities and grassroots venues across the UK.

The Oram Awards builds on Daphne Oram's pioneering legacy as a founding member of the original BBC Radiophonic Workshop, and her vital role establishing women at the forefront of electronic music innovation. Since 2017 the annual awards ceremony has celebrated an international array of artists bringing unique and inquisitive practices to electronic sound and music, all under the unified banner of "innovation in sound, music and technology." From live coding and expressive sound design to tape loop manipulation and electro-acoustic exploration, the artists recognised by the Orams embody the uncompromising, adventurous spirit of the awards' namesake. Alongside the ceremony itself, the Orams has expanded to encompass six-month mentorship programmes for award winners, sound workshops led by past recipients and partnerships with different venues around the UK.

Anticipating the anniversary of what would have been Daphne Oram's 100th birthday (on December 31 2025, to be exact), the decision was made to pause the open call awards programme and take the Orams on the road with a regional tour and extensive programme of projects across the UK. Partnering with the experimental sound network Outlands and focusing on grassroots music scenes, throughout Autumn 2025 the oram/100 tour will travel to Sheffield, Bristol, Birmingham, Salford (Manchester), Newcastle, Edinburgh, Derby and Wirksworth, Derbyshire. The tour will take in music festivals, art galleries, universities and studios, partnering with local DIY collectives and artists to deliver a rich offering of workshops, talks, film screenings and performances.

Among the planned performances are new commissions for past Oram Award winners, based around a new digital sample pack drawn from Oram's archives. In Bristol, Kathy Hinde, Dali de Saint Paul and Lia Mazzari will perform a commission that draws on Oram's writings as well as her wider musical and technological practices. In Salford, turntablist NikNak will deploy her signature experimental scratch techniques on Oram's sounds to create an improvised piece entitled 'Origin'. The Silver Field will use her instrument The Time Painter, created with an Oram Award bursary, to perform with Oram's sounds at the Haarlem Gallery in Wirksworth. The sample pack will also be used by other artists connected to The Oram Awards and other high-profile acts to create new works for a compilation on nonclassical, culminating in a live event at the Barbican, London, on December 4 2025.

"Daphne's work is arguably one of the most important and pivotal contributions to electronic music, especially by a woman," says NikNak. "Being a part of her legacy as an Oram Award winner, she and my comrades continually inspire me to make the musical worlds I want to create, unabashedly and as authentically as possible."

"After seven years of building the program with an annual awards program, live performances and workshops with leading festivals across the UK and our highly successful mentor program, we decided that it was time to press pause and evaluate the impact of the program. 2025 felt like the natural time to do this, with the opportunity to do something new to celebrate Daphne Oram's incredible contributions to the world of electronic sound and audio production as part of her centenary celebrations.

We are aware that there are areas across the UK that we are still not reaching in terms of applicants for the awards. This tour offers a unique opportunity to collaborate with artists, venues and sound collectives at a grassroots level in those areas, helping us understand the barriers they face, how they are working to break them down, making the world of sound, music, and technology more accessible to everyone."

#### **Karen Sutton - Director**

# ORAM/100 TOUR DATES

More info & tickets: oram100.oramawards.com

# 11.10.25 / No Bounds Festival, Gut Level, Sheffield

Workshop: Daphne Oram Sound Archive Synth & Sampling - Hosted by Lou Barnell and Quieting

Orams Social: with DJ Maeve Devine aka Quieting

Afterparty: The Beatriarchy (Chandé, Colecta, Gracie T, MYNA, Shannon From Admin)

# 25.10.25 / Arnolfini with Saffron Music, Bristol

**Workshop:** Creative Vinyl - Hosted by Daisy Moon / Saffron **Workshop:** Digital DJ - Hosted by Daisy Moon / Saffron

New Commission: PanOrama by Kathy Hinde, Dali de Saint Paul & Lia Mazzari

Performance: Beatrice Dillon – Listening DJ Set

# 25.10.25 / BEASTdome, Birmingham University

New Commission: 1966 Interrupted by afromerm & abi asisa

# 01.11.25 / Fat Out Fest, Islington Mill, Salford

Workshop: Wearable Tech, Ableton Live, Flowfal - Hosted by Lou Barnell & Simon East

New Commission: Origin by NikNak

Performances (on Echo Chamber spatial sound system): Lola de la Mata with Rosie Terry Toogood /

Lou Barnell

#### 15.11.25 / Cobalt Studios, Ouseburn, Newcastle

**Workshop:** DJ - Hosted by L.A.D.S **Workshop:** Synth - Hosted by L.A.D.S

Performances: Shelly Knotts / Beatrice Dillon (live)

#### 22.11.25 / Dubrek Studios, Derby

**Workshop:** CTRL the Floor (DJ open play)

Workshop: Beginners Ableton - Experimental Sound Design - Hosted by Aja

Performances: Natalie Roe / Daphnellc / Aja / Rayna (DJ set)

#### 29.11.25 / Haarlem Artspace & The Featherstar, Wirksworth, Derbyshire

Workshop: Build Your Own Oscillator - Hosted by The Silver Field

Workshop: Intro to music production and performing with Ableton - Hosted by Echo Juliet

New Commission: Daphne Meets The Time Painter by The Silver Field

Performances: Strange Loop (Sophie Barkerwood / Haiku Salut) / Echo Juliet (live)

#### 13.12.25 / St Vincent's Church, Edinburgh

Performances: The Silver Field / Vocifer / Justyna Jablonska / Aurora Engine / Bell Lungs / SLY DIG

Workshop: Improvised Music Tech Jam - Hosted by Luci Holland & Tinderbox Lab

Panel Discussion: Luci Holland (Tinderbox Lab), Karen Sutton (Oram Awards), Dr John Hailes (Napier

University) + more

# **ARTIST COMMISSIONS**

# Dali de Saint Paul, Lia Mazzari & Kathy Hinde - PanOrama

Premiere: 25th Oct 2025 - Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol

Bristol-based experimental artists and Oram laureates create a new work blending voice, cello, electronics, field recordings, and archival materials. *PanOrama* combines improvisation, synthesis, and Daphne Oram's original scores to bridge past and present.

# afromerm & abi asisa - 1966 Interrupted

Premiere: 25th Oct 2025 - BEAST, Birmingham University

A live electronic interpretation of two surviving Oramics waveform slides (1966), manipulating cello, voice, and mixer in real time to create a collage-style, intergenerational conversation with Daphne Oram.

# NikNak - Origin

Premiere: 1st Nov 2025 - Fat Out Fest, Islington Mill

An improvised turntable performance using Daphne Oram archive sounds, transformed through live effects and experimental scratch techniques.

# The Silver Field – Daphne meets The Time Painter

Premiere: 29th Nov 2025 - Haarlem Gallery, Wirksworth

Rose Kindred Boothby uses her new instrument, The Time Painter, to process live and recorded audio from the Daphne Oram archive, creating improvised, non-linear electronic soundscapes in celebration of Oram's centenary.

#### For more information, please contact Ellie Ball & Erin Brown:

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