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THURSDAY NIGHTS AT V&A EAST MUSEUM: DJs, DRINKS AND *THE MUSIC IS BLACK: A BRITISH STORY AFTER DARK*

TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2026

- V&A East Museum unveils new Thursday late-night programme until the end of September
- **Gabriel Moses** joins V&A East Museum on **Thursday 27 August** for a special **one-night-only** conversation and film screening
- Free DJ residency series **upperground** includes sets by **Karen Nyame KG, Lo-Low, Zakia, Demae** and **A.G.**, inspired by *The Music is Black: A British Story* exhibition.

V&A East Museum is turning **Thursday nights** into a destination for music, culture and conversation. Running until the **end of September**, the museum's late-night programme brings together **DJ residencies, pop-up bars, after-hours exhibition access** and **sweeping city views** from its **top-floor terrace** every Thursday until 22:00.

Also joining the programme on **Thursday 27 August, for one night only**, is artist, photographer, and filmmaker **Gabriel Moses** for the latest edition of V&A East's *A Life in the Work of Others*. In conversation with V&A East curator Josephine Small, Moses will reflect on the influences, experiences and collaborations that have shaped his creative practice, from work with artists including **Dave, Skepta** and **Little Simz** to campaigns for **Louis Vuitton, Burberry** and **Dior**. While the free event is currently sold out, a limited allocation of walk-up tickets will be available on the night on a first come, first served basis.

Visitors can also enjoy a **rare screening** of Moses' first narrative-led film, ***The Last Hour*** (2025), in the *Why We Make* galleries' Film Room. The film explores themes of legacy, morality, purpose and unresolved connections, delving into what really matters as time is running out.

At the heart of the Thursday night programme is **upperground**, a free series of rotating DJ residencies inspired by *The Music is Black: A British Story*. From dancehall,

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amapiano and garage to house, jungle and afrotech, *upperground* transforms the museum's Upper Ground level into a vibrant and inclusive late-night dancefloor, with a **pop-up bar by Café Jikoni**, offering bespoke cocktails, craft beers, non-alcoholic drinks, and snacks.

On Thursday 27 August, presented in partnership with **BBC Introducing** as part of the BBC's *The Music is Black* season inspired by the museum's exhibition, DJ [Karen Nyame KG](#) takes over *upperground*. A pioneer of the UK funky movement and dubbed the "Goddess of Rhythm", [Karen Nyame KG](#) follows previous sets staged at the museum by [Josh Caffé](#), [Polyjammerous](#) and [Gloria Rose](#).

The *upperground* DJ line-up continues throughout September with:

- **[Lo-Low](#) (3 September)**: East London-based techno DJ and cultural force known for performances at Fold, Somerset House, Kew Gardens, Pxssy Palace and Boiler Room.
- **[Zakia](#) (10 September)**: DJ and BBC Radio 6 Music host, renowned for blending house, afrobeats and experimental sounds.
- **[Demaë](#) (17 September)**: Multi-disciplinary artist whose alternative soul and jazz-infused sound has seen her support Jorja Smith on tour.
- **[A.G](#) (24 September)**: A BBC Introducing partner artist whose sets weave together grime, garage, drill, R&B and hip hop.

Every Thursday night, visitors can also explore the museum's inaugural exhibition, ***The Music is Black: A British Story***, charting 125 years of Black music-making in Britain and its global influence from **Samuel Coleridge-Taylor** to **Joan Armatrading**, **Craig David**, **JME**, **Massive Attack**, **Skunk Anansie**, **Stormzy**, **Tems** and more. Access to the museum's permanent ***Why We Make*** galleries, ***New Work*** site-specific creative commissions by artists including, **Tania Bruguera**, Turner Prize-nominated **Rene Matić** and **Laura Wilson**, **V&A East Museum's two shops**, and food and drink at onsite **Café Jikoni** complete the after-hours experience.

V&A East Director, Dr Gus Casely-Hayford, said: "Museums are at their most powerful when they bring people together around ideas, stories and shared experiences. Our Thursday late nights at V&A East Museum create a space where music, art, food and conversation meet. Inspired by *The Music is Black: A British Story*, they offer new ways to engage with the artists and cultural movements shaping our world today. We look forward to welcoming visitors to experience the museum after dark, and to make it their own."

Gabriel Moses said: "I'm blessed to have a moment like this alongside V&A East Museum. Throughout my career, I've been of few words and like to let the work speak on my behalf, so it's nice to speak on this platform and reflect on the wins and losses amongst people

News Release



who may share the same experiences. It's important to have real conversations and hopefully people walk away feeling like they can push through doors themselves."

-ENDS-

For further PRESS information about V&A East Museum, please contact Laura Mitchell and Michaila Otoo through the V&A Press Office / press.office@vam.ac.uk / 020 7942 2502 (not for publication).

A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk.

Notes to Editors

- [V&A East Museum](https://vam.ac.uk/east) celebrates creativity for change. It is **FREE** to all and open 10:00 – 18:00 seven-days-a-week, with **late night openings to 22:00 every Thursday and Saturday**.
- V&A East Museum is part of East Bank and located in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Address: V&A East Museum, 107 Carpenters Road, Stratford, E20 2AR.
- **Thursday nights at V&A East Museum include:**
 - **Upperground**, every Thursday to 24 September, 18.30 – 21.30
 - **A Life in the Work of Others with Gabriel Moses** (fully booked with limited walk-up availability), Thursday 27 August, 19.00 – 20.30
 - **The Music is Black: A British Story**, last entry at 21.00 every Thursday. Prices start from £9.50. Ticket bookings: vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/the-music-is-black-a-british-story
 - **Why We Make galleries**, open until 22.00 every Thursday
 - **Café Jikoni**, bar on Upper Ground level and café on Lower Ground level, open until 22.00 every Thursday.
- **The Music is Black: A British Story** at V&A East Museum is supported by Ford Foundation, with further support from the Huo Family Foundation and GRoW @ Annenberg Foundation. Sound Experience supported by Sennheiser.

About V&A East

V&A East is dedicated to creative opportunity and its power to bring change. V&A East Storehouse (opened 31 May 2025) and V&A East Museum (opened 18 April 2026) are two free cultural destinations that are part of East Bank, on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Both have been created in partnership with young people and inspired by east London's creative heritage. Working directly with the voices that are shaping global contemporary culture, V&A East brings the V&A collection and archive to life in new ways, celebrating making in all its forms, opening up new possibilities and discoveries for everyone.



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About East Bank

East Bank is the UK's newest culture and education quarter at the heart of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It's the place where everything happens – entertainment, inspiration and discovery – and it is open to everyone who visits, lives and works in east London. East Bank is a unique collaboration between cultural institutions, world-leading universities and the people of the four neighbouring Growth Boroughs (Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest).

East Bank is made up of five partner institutions: BBC Music Studios; London College of Fashion, UAL; Sadler's Wells East; UCL East campus and V&A East Museum and Storehouse. It is the largest ever cultural investment by the Mayor of London, and marks a commitment to long-term, world-class culture and education in east London.

East Bank provides skills and jobs for local people, brings more than 10,000 students to the site, and attracts thousands of visitors from London and beyond. East Bank will help cement the capital's reputation as a world leader in culture, education and innovation, creating 2,500 jobs and £1.5 billion of economic benefit. More information on East Bank can be found [here](#).

