

News Release

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FROM CHEZA LUCINA TO ELIJAH, NEW DJS ANNOUNCED FOR V&A EAST MUSEUM'S THURSDAY-NIGHT MUSIC SERIES, *UPPERGROUND*

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2026

- **New DJs** announced for **V&A East Museum's free Thursday-night DJ residency, *upperground***, running until 17 December.
- Expect everything from **Caribbean rhythms** and **global bass** to **grime, garage, house, disco, dubstep** and **cutting-edge club music**.
- **Thursday late nights** also include **after-hours exhibition access**, a **Café Jikoni pop-up bar** and **panoramic terrace views across London** until 10pm.

V&A East Museum today announces the **extension of *upperground***, its **free DJ residency series**, running until 17 December 2026, with a new line-up featuring **CHEZA LUCINA, DRYBABE, sweetestcape, Elijah** and more.

Following a successful summer pilot, ***upperground*** returns as **the centrepiece of V&A East Museum's Thursday late-night programme**. Inspired by the critically acclaimed exhibition ***The Music is Black: A British Story***, the series transforms the museum's Upper Ground level into a vibrant late-night dancefloor, showcasing sounds from Caribbean rhythms to grime and garage, dubstep, disco, house, cutting-edge global club sounds and beyond.

Every Thursday until 10pm, visitors can enjoy **DJ residencies**, a **Café Jikoni pop-up bar**, **after-hours access to exhibitions** and **galleries**, and **panoramic views across London's skyline** from **V&A East Museum's top floor terrace**.

Kicking off the new line-up on **Thursday 8 October** is London DJ, producer and cultural curator **CHEZA LUCINA**, whose high-energy sets traverse Caribbean, UK and global bass cultures, blending sounds from amapiano and soca to jungle, dubstep, garage and UK funky. Cheza has performed at festivals from **Glastonbury** to **We Out Here**, hosted radio residencies on **Kool FM, Voices Radio** and **Subtle FM**, and curated sold-out events at venues including **FOLD, Elektrowerkz** and **Dalston Superstore**.



The *upperground* DJ line-up continues every Thursday until 17 December, except for 12 November, when there will be a special event co-curated with BBC Introducing and BBC 1Xtra.

Confirmed *upperground* DJs include:

- **[CHEZA LUCINA \(8 October 2026\)](#)**: a high-energy blend of Caribbean rhythms, UK underground sounds and global bass influences, from soca and amapiano to jungle and UK funky.
- **[DRYBABE \(15 October 2026\)](#)**: a genre-spanning selection of cutting-edge club music, underground sounds and global musical influences.
- **[sweetestcape \(5 November 2026\)](#)**: an uplifting mix of deep house, disco, funk, broken beat and contemporary electronic music.
- **[Elijah \(26 November 2026\)](#)**: grime, garage, dubstep and forward-thinking electronic sounds from DJ, producer and educator, Elijah.
- **[Crash Tracy \(3 December 2026\)](#)**: a dynamic mix of grime, rap, garage and funky house from East London DJ, music manager and community organiser, Crash Tracy.
- **[Ryan Lovell \(10 December 2026\)](#)**: a high-energy fusion of R&B rhythms, dancehall, Afro-electronic sounds, house and unexpected vocal edits.
- [Check out the latest confirmed artists which will be updated here.](#)

CHEZA LUCINA, said: *“What excited me about this invitation was the chance to showcase the full breadth of my expression as an artist. My selections reflect my identity, inspirations and communities, with a touch of playfulness throughout. I’ll take audiences on a genre-blending journey through sounds from across the globe, and I hope people leave feeling energised, empowered and united.”*

The new lineup follows previous V&A East Museum *upperground* sets by [Josh Caffé](#), [Polyjammerous](#), [Gloria Rose](#), [Karen Nyame KG](#), [LO-LOW](#), [Zakia Sewell](#), [Demaë](#) and [A.G.](#) this summer.

upperground is curated by Rubén Salgado Pérez, Contemporary Programme Curator, Live Programme, V&A East, supported by Josephine Small, Curatorial Programme Assistant, V&A East.

Phoebe Bitmead-Hill, Head of Operations and Commercial, V&A East, said: *“After a brilliant summer, we’re thrilled to extend our upperground DJ residencies until 17 December. There’s something special about experiencing music in a museum after dark, and this new line-up brings fresh energy, outstanding DJs and an exciting mix of sounds to Thursday nights at V&A East Museum. Whether you’re coming for the music, exhibitions, food or views across London, there’s always something new to discover.”*





On 12 November, **V&A East Museum** will partner with **BBC Introducing Live and BBC Radio 1Xtra** for the special event '*New Black British Sound x BBC Introducing*', a free evening of performances, open mic sessions and conversations exploring the future of Black British music. *upperground* returns the following Thursday, 19 November.

Every Thursday night, visitors can also explore the museum's inaugural exhibition, ***The Music is Black: A British Story***, after dark. The exhibition charts 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. The after-hours experience is completed by 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.

From 14 November, V&A East's forthcoming ***The Stories of Clothes* season**, supported by **Acne Studios**, will bring brand-new *New Work* commissions by **Alia Ali, East London Textile Arts, R.I.P. Germain** and **Zadie Xa** to the museum.

-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](http://vam.ac.uk) celebrates creativity for change. It is **FREE** to all and open 10am – 6pm seven-days-a-week, with **late night openings to 10pm 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 17 December 2026, 6.30pm – 9.30pm. The full DJ line-up will be continually updated on this webpage throughout the run: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/event/p9PR3vALR5D/upperground-dj-sets-october-december-2026>
 - ***The Music is Black: A British Story***, last entry at 9pm every Thursday. Prices start from £9.50. Ticket bookings: vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/the-





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- **Why We Make galleries**, open until 10pm every Thursday
- **Café Jikoni**, bar on Upper Ground level and café on Lower Ground level, open until 10pm 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 at queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/east-bank.

