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Date of Issue: Tuesday 23 June, 10am

Black Country, New Road to perform new arrangements of their music live at the London Coliseum

**Curated and conducted by André de Ridder
With the Orchestra of English National Opera**

Friday 13 November 2026



Black Country, New Road © Eddie Whelan

On Friday 13 November 2026, alternative rock band **Black Country, New Road** (BC,NR) will perform a landmark and genre-defying concert at the **London Coliseum** with the award-winning **Orchestra of English National Opera** (ENO), curated and conducted by **André de Ridder**, ENO's Music Director Designate.

Sessions at the London Coliseum signals a bold, boundary-pushing strand of work that places collaboration, experimentation and new voices at its core. It forms part of de Ridder's evolving approach to music programming at ENO – one that seeks to bring

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together artists from across the musical world, unlock new creative collaborations, and expand what audiences can expect to experience on the London Coliseum stage and beyond.

This concert is part of ENO's 2026/27 Season, which also includes *Angel's Bone*, *Tosca*, *Iphigénie en Tauride*, *Adriana Mater*, *La traviata*, *Breaking the Waves*, and *Trial by Jury & The Zoo* at the London Coliseum, alongside *Einstein on the Beach* at Aviva Studios, Manchester.

BC,NR and André de Ridder have collaborated with a distinguished group of composers and artists to create new arrangements that reveal fresh dimensions of their music, showcasing the Orchestra of ENO's sound in innovative ways. The collaborators include **Owen Pallett** (Arcade Fire), **Josephine Stephenson**, and **Fiona Brice**.

BC,NR comprises **Lewis Evans** (saxophonist), **May Kershaw** (keys), **Charlie Wayne** (drums), **Luke Mark** (guitar), **Tyler Hyde** (bass) and **Georgia Ellery** (violin). Few contemporary bands embody reinvention as boldly and consistently as BC,NR. From their Mercury Prize-nominated debut *For the First Time* - a restless fusion of jazz, post-rock and klezmer - to the sweeping, chamber-pop intricacy of *Ants From Up There* (both UK Top 5 albums), the band have continually expanded their sonic world. Their acclaimed *Live at Bush Hall* marked another striking evolution, earning a five-star review from The Guardian and hailed as a "magical resurgence". Now, on their third studio album, BC,NR once again push forward with a complete creative reset emerging with a vivid, transformative new chapter that redefines the boundaries of their sound.

For this concert, they will perform new arrangements of songs from their latest studio album, *Forever Howlong*, featuring 'Forever Howlong', 'Happy Birthday' and 'For the Cold Country'. Their third album marks a bold new chapter with shared vocal and songwriting duties, inventive instrumentation, and expansive arrangements, showcasing a fearless exploration of chamber pop, folk, and prog influences that cements the group as one of the most exciting voices in contemporary rock. Reaching number 3 in the UK's Official Album Charts, *Forever Howlong* was praised by NME as "a promise from a band who have now thrice proven they're not afraid to take the plunge".

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They are joined for this one-off performance by the Orchestra of ENO, renowned for their versatility of repertoire, providing the musical landscape and emotional richness for ENO productions and collaborations. André de Ridder conducts following the performance with BC,NR and the National Symphony Orchestra Ireland at the National Concert Hall in Dublin in September 2026. Widely acclaimed for his stylistic versatility and bold interpretations, de Ridder works across opera and orchestral music, jazz and electronics, avant-garde experimentation and indie pop. He has also collaborated with Dirty Projectors, The Flaming Lips and Gorillaz.

Black Country, New Road said: *“Performing our music reorchestrated with the Orchestra of ENO at the historic London Coliseum and reuniting with André de Ridder this autumn feels like a natural extension of how we’ve imagined audiences listening to our sound. We wrote these songs with texture and collaboration in mind, so having the opportunity to perform them with an orchestra – and in a venue as iconic as this – is incredibly exciting.”*

André de Ridder said: *“Black Country, New Road are one of the most compelling bands of our time. We have been working together since the pandemic when we recorded an online concert for Other Voices and Haldern Pop Festival. They are an incredibly creative band, a mini orchestra, a real collective of talents and many of them are classically trained, so this collaboration was a given at some point. Here we are! Working with the band and the musicians of the Orchestra of ENO will open up a new dimension of their music, and we can’t wait to share this experience with audiences at the London Coliseum.”*

“At ENO, I’m excited to develop projects like this that invite artists to experiment and to build alternative forms of musical experiences together. It’s about showing and expanding what opera and contemporary music can be and creating spaces for encounters between different genres of music for our audiences.”

This project was developed by English National Opera and NCH.

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Notes to Editors:

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For more information or interview requests, please contact:

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Photos: <https://englishnationalopera.smugmug.com/Black-Country-New-Road-Orchestra-of-ENO->

Listings Information:

Sessions at the London Coliseum: Black Country, New Road

Conducted by André de Ridder, with the Orchestra of English National Opera

Date: Friday 13 November 2026

Time: 19.30

Venue: London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4ES

Tickets:

- Start from £39.00 (including all fees)
- Available to purchase from: www.eno.org

Booking Dates:

- Artist pre-sale: Wednesday 24 June, 10.00
- General on sale: Friday 26 June, 10.00

About English National Opera:

English National Opera (ENO) is one of the UK's leading opera companies, dedicated to creating extraordinary encounters with opera, on stage and beyond. Performing in English and presenting bold, imaginative productions in an inclusive environment, ENO brings together outstanding artists, musicians and creative teams to tell powerful stories to the widest possible audience.

ENO is a dual-centre opera company, presenting a season at the iconic London Coliseum every year alongside dynamic work in Greater Manchester as part of its pioneering partnership with the city-region. Across the country, ENO runs a wide-ranging programme of learning, participation, creative health and community engagement that supports emerging artists and opens up opera to people of all ages and backgrounds.

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Founded in 1931 as Sadlers Wells Opera, ENO has played a central role in the cultural life of the nation for more than 90 years.

English National Opera, creating opera without limits.

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About André de Ridder:

André de Ridder is the English National Opera's Music Director Designate, joining the company in Autumn 2027.

Currently Generalmusikdirektor (GMD) of the Theater Freiburg, he is in demand internationally for his impressive stylistic versatility, from baroque to contemporary music. His projects and collaborations take him to orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie Orchestra Berlin, Orchestre de Paris and Rotterdam Philharmonic.

Over the course of the 2024/25 Season, De Ridder has conducted new productions of *Jenufa*, *Tosca* and *Alcina* at the Theater Freiburg. Other highlights of the season in Freiburg included concerts with soloists Ilya Gingolts and Kit Armstrong, and symphonic works such as Tchaikovsky's *Hamlet* and Olivier Messiaen's *Éclairs sur l'Au-Delà*.

De Ridder also made guest appearances this season with such orchestras as the Tonhalle Zurich, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Brussels Philharmonic, hr-Sinfonieorchester Frankfurt, as well as Helsinki Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Philharmonia Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra Dublin and Concertgebouworkest. He continues his curatorship and performances of *Unclassified Live* at London's Southbank Centre, a series of genre-bending performances featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra.

He has formed close relationships with some of the most prominent opera composers of our generation, including Michel van der Aa, Daníel Bjarnason, York Höller, Nico Muhly and Kaija Saariaho. De Ridder also has collaborated with directors such as David Alden, Kasper Holten, Barrie Kosky and Enda Walsh.

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De Ridder is an artistic director and co-founder of *stargaze*, performing projects ranging from Bach to avant-garde electronics, and contemporary classical music. The group have gained a significant following, and are regularly invited by leading concert halls, including the Barbican Centre London, the Kölner Philharmonie and Philharmonie de Paris, plus Elbphilharmonie Hamburg. Their series '*(not) Another Beethoven Cycle*' appeared at Elbphilharmonie, Helsinki Festival, Lucerne Festival and Kölner Philharmonie. In the 24/25 Season they are resident at Muzikgebouw in Amsterdam.

De Ridder's discography includes an album of orchestral music by Bryce Dessner and Jonny Greenwood and the enormously successful *Four Seasons Recomposed* by Max Richter, both for Deutsche Grammophon. The Max Richter recording was awarded an ECHO Klassik Classic Without Borders award and has topped the classical charts in over 20 countries. For Transgressive Records, De Ridder also acted as producer on the release of *Africa Express Presents: In C Mali*. This followed a trip to Bamako, Mali, with Damon Albarn and his Africa Express project. In Mali, de Ridder initiated and led a recording of Riley's *In C* with local musicians, joined by travelling Western artists, including Brian Eno and Damon Albarn.

De Ridder was Artistic Director of Musica Nova Helsinki 2017 – 2021, and in 2018 was the recipient of a Royal Philharmonic Society Award for his innovative work as Artistic Curator of London's Spitalfields Festival.