

ROYAL BALLET & OPERA



Lots of Love



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Family Sunday

Opening Night

Sunday 18 Jan 2026

10am – 12.30pm

**Welcome to our Family Sunday:
Lots of Love!**

Today we celebrate individuality, friendship, the joy of coming together. The programme shines a spotlight on LGBTQ+ communities past and present who helped shape the worlds of opera and ballet. Hop aboard, travel with us through time.

First stop: 1950s New York. Discover the life, relationship of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears in *A Letter from Ben*. Next, travel to Paris. Musetta and her friends invite you to join a *La bohème*-inspired sing-along workshop, with the brilliant *Bohème Band* bringing the sounds of the city to life.

Ballet pianist NICKI WILLIAMSON returns with favourite tunes featuring her signature ballet-piano twist. Puppeteer ALICIA BRITT teams up with dancer ANNA SMITH to present a special marionette, dance performance blending contemporary dance, classical ballet and traditional puppetry directed by RACHEL WARR.

We are thrilled to welcome back to the Paul Hamlyn Hall *Duckie* by

Le Gateau Chocolat. This joyful reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling* shares messages of self-acceptance and kindness.

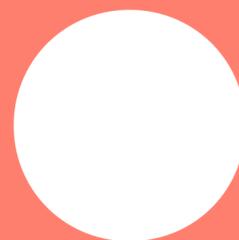
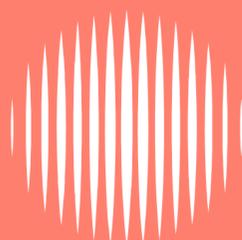
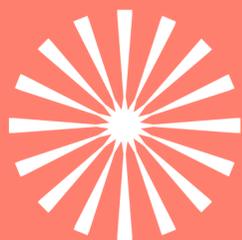
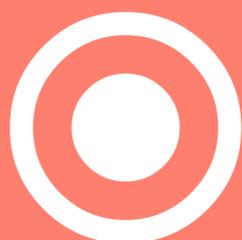
Later, show off your own heart-inspired moves in the *Dance Mama* workshop led by LUCY MCCRUDDEN, alongside former Royal Ballet dancer SABINA COX.

As always, dive into our costume rails, now in their new home, the Dorfman Conservatory. Share the love with our wonderful craft team in the *Crush Room* and Level 5. Create your own love-themed keepsake using materials from vintage ROH programmes, playbills, music scores.

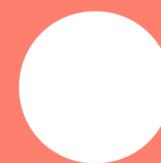
With so much to enjoy, we are sure you will have a truly wonderful day with us.

Family Sundays can be quite noisy. Ear defenders are available for you or your little person. Please ask a member of staff in a black t-shirt.

We have a buggy park on site and Level 5 Cloakroom is open for *Cicoria* restaurant bookers and Family Sunday ticket holders.



Take Part



A Musical Welcome

Start your day with the uplifting sounds of our Parisian House band by the Ground Floor Café. An irresistible invitation to take a twirl on arrival, then continue your journey around the activity spaces.

Main Entrance Foyer
9.45am— 10am

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Dressing Up

Step into the enchanting world of The Royal Ballet and Opera with costumes inspired by magical stage characters. Who will you transform into?

Dorfman Conservatory
10am — 12.15pm

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Ballet Barre

Fancy being a ballet dancer? Give it a go in this barre workshop led by SABINA COX accompanied by DEBBI PARKS on piano.

Linbury Foyer
10.45am — 11.05am
11.35am— 11.55am

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La Bohème Winter Parade

Join Musetta and her friends at Café Momus for a winter parade as they raise awareness for those in need! In this interactive family show, help gather jumpers, rehearse songs, and meet the four main characters of *La bohème*, learning about their passions and dreams along the way. Celebrate the spirit of giving and the power of community.

Paul Hamlyn Hall
10.10am — 10.40am

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Dance Mama Workshop

For the love of dance! Join former Royal Ballet dancer SABINA COX and Dance Mama LUCY MCCRUDDEN with live music from pianist FRANCES YONGE.

Create a heart's desire-inspired dance in this fun workshop designed for you and your grown-up. Includes time to ask SABINA questions about life as a dancing mum and dancer. Open to all. No experience necessary.

Paul Hamlyn Hall
12pm — 12.30pm

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Watch



Entwine

Meet Miho, Alicia and Anna. A marionette puppet, a puppeteer and a contemporary dancer performing together for the first time. A playful exploration of movement, balance, the strings that bind people together in friendship. This stunning performance is followed by a chance to meet the puppet.

Linbury Foyer
10.10am – 10.40am

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A Letter from Ben

Climb aboard a magical train to New York Airport and meet Peter, who is on his way home to his beloved Ben. This moving musical play tells the true love story of tenor Peter Pears (JOSEPH DOODY) and composer Benjamin Britten (EDWARD ZANDERS). Directed by JONATHAN AINSCOUGH.

Clore Studio
11am – 11.30am
12pm – 12.30pm

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Duckie

LE GATEAU CHOCOLAT presents *Duckie*, a reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling* with a message of tolerance and self-acceptance at its core.

Paul Hamlyn Hall
10.50am – 11.20am

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Capacity is limited for this event, seats will be allocated to first come, first served. Doors and queue will open at 10.45am / 11.45am.

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Listen



Dancing Piano

Join Royal Ballet pianist and creator of *The Dancing Piano*, NICKI WILLIAMSON, for a delightful showcase of virtuosic piano stylings. A musical treat for all ages.

Linbury Foyer
11.10am – 11.30am

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Opera à La Bohème

Step into the world of opera with a live performance from the singers of *La bohème Winter Parade*. Enjoy spellbinding solos and dazzling duets. It is a perfect moment to sit back, listen and let the music transport you.

Paul Hamlyn Hall
11.30am – 11.55am

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Bohème Band

Join a lively troupe of musicians for a heart-warming celebration of all things love. Get to know the players and their instruments up close before diving into love songs from opera, ballet and beyond.

Linbury Foyer
12pm – 12.30pm

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Make



Love Bugs

Join CAROLINE YAWA ADA to create your very own wearable 'love bug' artwork. Celebrate your uniqueness through colour, creativity, and fun. Share the love and wear it with pride.

Crush Room
10am – 12.15pm

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From Paris with Love

Spread the love in Paris with SHELLY & JOHN, just outside La Bohème Café, by adding a colourful heart to our Paris backdrop for someone you love. You will also have the option to create your own fabulous, collaged heart to hold, wear or show off like a true Parisian artist.

Level 5
10am – 12.15pm

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Vintage Paper Heart

Make a woven paper heart from vintage papers from the Royal Opera House. Using beautiful, coloured papers and upcycled paper from the RBO, paper artist TRACEY BUSH will guide you in making a woven paper heart, which can be used as a card, decoration or container as a gift or keepsake.

Crush Room
10am – 12.15pm

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Timetable



9.45am – 10am

A Musical Welcome

Main Entrance Foyer

10am

10am – 12.15pm

Dressing Up

Dorfman Conservatory

From Paris with Love

Level 5

Vintage Paper Heart

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Paul Hamlyn Hall

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Duckie

Paul Hamlyn Hall

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A Letter from Ben

Clore Studio

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Dancing Piano

Linbury Foyer

11.30am – 11.55pm

Opera à la Bohème

Paul Hamlyn Hall

11.35am – 11.55pm

Ballet Barre

Linbury Foyer

12pm

12pm – 12.30pm

Dance Mama Workshop

Paul Hamlyn Hall

12pm – 12.30pm

A Letter from Ben

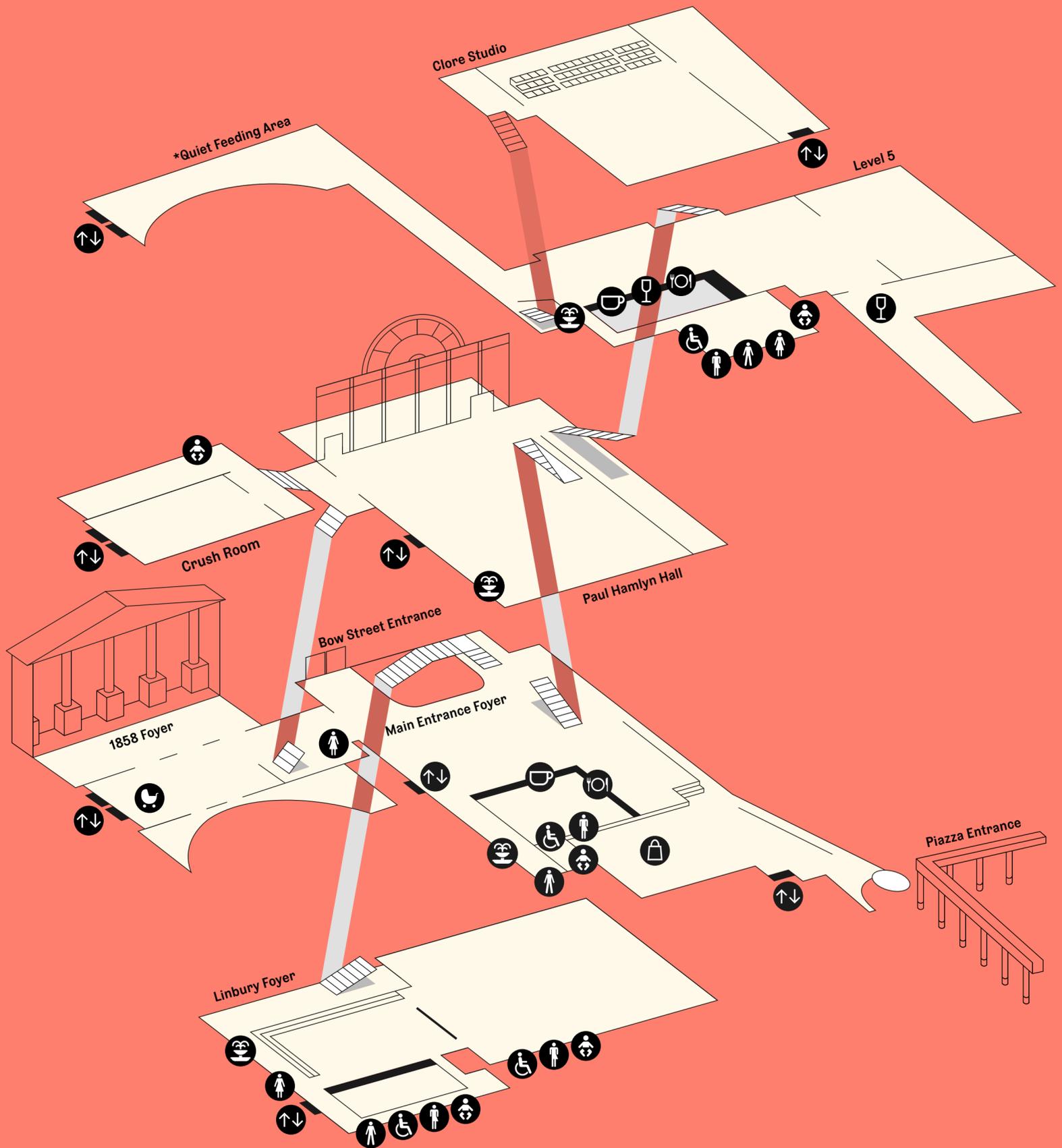
Clore Studio

12pm – 12.30pm

Bohème Band

Linbury Foyer

Map



MEN'S TOILETS

WOMEN'S TOILETS

ACCESSIBLE/GENDER
NEUTRAL TOILETS

BABY CHANGING

WATER FOUNTAIN

BUGGY PARK



CAFÉ

BAR

FOOD

SHOP

LIFT



*The Royal Opera House is a breastfeeding friendly venue. If you require a quieter place to feed please head up to Level 5.