

A D E L A I D E F E S T I V A L 2026



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AF26 DIGITAL DAYBILL

Tyshawn Sorey: Alone

Monday 2 March 2026, 7:30pm
Her Majesty's Theatre
Duration: 1 hour, no interval

Tyshawn Sorey piano

Jazz titan, Tyshawn Sorey performs in solo piano mode for one-night-only.

Tyshawn Sorey is a remarkable figure in contemporary music. An acclaimed composer and multi-instrumentalist and one of the most in demand drummers amongst the titans of the jazz scene, Sorey stands at the vanguard of the contemporary classical world.

Sorey's music draws from a wide range of musical idioms, crossing boundaries of genre, composition and improvisation. Appearing at Adelaide Festival as composer and musical director for Perle Noire, Sorey performs in solo piano mode for a one-night-only performance at Her Majesty's Theatre. This is a rare moment of musical intimacy – an extraordinary artist, a piano, and the promise of a transcendent experience.

"Sorey is an innately gripping musical storyteller" – *The New Yorker*

Tyshawn Sorey

Composer and multi-instrumentalist Tyshawn Sorey has performed globally with his own ensembles, as well as alongside industry titans including John Zorn, Bill Frisell, Joe Lovano, Vijay Iyer, Jason Moran, King Britt, Claire Chase, Roscoe Mitchell, and Steve Lehman, among many others.

The bar is set high for Sorey's continued evolution and success. He was named the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Music winner for his composition *Adagio (for Wadada Leo Smith)*, after being recognized as a 2023 Pulitzer Finalist for *Monochromatic Light (Afterlife)*. Previously, Sorey roared onto the international landscape as a 2017 MacArthur Fellow and a 2018 United States Artists Fellow. Adding to his reputation as a multi-faceted talent, *Downbeat Magazine* recognized Sorey with its 2023 Critics Poll Award as a Rising Star Producer, while annually placing him near the top of its Composer and Drum Set performance lists. Other recent accolades include the Pew Fellowship, the Fromm Fellowship, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Goddard Lieberson Fellowship, and the Koussevitzky Prize.

Sorey has composed works for the International Contemporary Ensemble, Talea Ensemble, soprano Julia Bullock, PRISM Quartet, JACK Quartet, TAK Ensemble, Brooklyn Rider, A Far Cry, cellists Seth Parker Woods and Matt Haimovitz, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, bass-baritone Davóne Tines, Alarm Will Sound, pianist Awadagin Pratt and vocal group Roomful of Teeth, pianist Sarah Rothenberg, violinist Johnny Gandelsman, and tenor Lawrence Brownlee, as well as for countless others. His music has been performed in notable venues such as the Library of Congress, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Hollywood Bowl, the 92nd Street Y, Park Avenue Armory, the Donaueschinger Musiktage, Lucerne Festival, and Lincoln Center. His compositions are published by Edition Peters.

Sorey joined the composition faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in the Fall of 2020, where he maintains a vigorous touring schedule in addition to his academic duties. He was selected as a Peabody Resident at Johns Hopkins University for Fall 2023, and has taught and lectured on composition and improvisation at an impressive assortment of institutions, including: Columbia University, Harvard University, Darmstadter Ferienkurse, Wesleyan University, The New England Conservatory, University of Michigan, The Banff Centre, Berklee College of Music, Mills College, University of Chicago, and The Danish Rhythmic Conservatory.

In spring 2023, Sorey debuted a musical collaboration with percussion ensemble Yarn/Wire titled "Be Holding," a multimedia adaptation of the book-length poem by Ross Gay about the beauty and cultural significance of Julius Erving's momentous sky hook dunk during the 1980 NBA Finals. The production included performances by professional wordsmiths Yolanda Wisher and David A. Gaines, along with students from Girard College, and was featured in the New York Times. Sorey's trio (featuring pianist Aaron Diehl and bassist Harish Raghavan) is currently touring with Sandbox Percussion Ensemble, performing a newly commissioned piece in honor of the Max Roach Centennial titled *Cogitations*. In the future, Sorey plans to continue pushing boundaries, extending cultural norms, and reformulating public perceptions of modern Black/Afrodiasporic creative practice through the breadth and depth of his works.

tyshawnsorey.com