

# Artangel

Press release  
22 September 2020

## ARTANGEL PRESENTS THE LONGPLAYER ASSEMBLY

Celebrating 20 years of Longplayer

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 10am – 10pm

Join the event on [Artangel.org.uk](https://www.artangel.org.uk)



Clockwise from top left: Mulindwa Moses, Laurie Anderson, Mariana Mazzucato, Amia Srinivasan, John Akomfrah, Naomi Alderman, Brian Eno

Artangel presents Longplayer Assembly – a non-stop 12-hour conversation relay featuring 24 leading thinkers from around the world, streamed live online on Saturday 26 September, 10am – 10pm BST.

Presented in association with the London Review of Books, this ambitious event marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Longplayer – the ground-breaking musical composition by artist Jem Finer that began playing at the turn of the millennium.

24 participants from a range of disciplines will think, listen and talk in pairs, passing the conversation baton from one to the other every 30 minutes for 12 hours. For the most part, each participant will be paired with someone who is not from a similar background.

The first two decades of Longplayer's continuous thousand-year journey is the stimulus for an Assembly of voices and viewpoints representing different aspects of public life. Education, economics, health, the arts, the natural world, technology and the built environment all face equally pressing, complex challenges requiring imaginative, long term solutions.

### Longplayer Assembly Line-up

09:50 – Introduction from Ansuman Biswas  
10:00 – Precious Lunga in conversation with Eyal Weizman  
10:30 – Eyal Weizman in conversation with Brian Eno  
11:00 – Brian Eno in conversation with Amia Srinivasan  
11:30 – Amia Srinivasan in conversation with Farhana Yamin  
12:00 – Farhana Yamin in conversation with Helen Thompson  
12:30 – Helen Thompson in conversation with Will Prentice  
13:00 – Will Prentice in conversation with Vibeke Mascini  
13:30 – Vibeke Mascini in conversation with Theodore Zeldin  
14:00 – Theodore Zeldin in conversation with Mariana Mazzucato  
14:30 – Mariana Mazzucato in conversation with Laurie Anderson  
15:00 – Laurie Anderson in conversation with Mulindwa Moses  
15:30 – Mulindwa Moses in conversation with Sukhdev Sandhu  
16:00 – Sukhdev Sandhu in conversation with Saskia Sassen  
16:30 – Saskia Sassen in conversation with Rupert Beale  
17:00 – Rupert Beale in conversation with Holly Jean Buck  
17:30 – Holly Jean Buck in conversation with Jacqueline Springer  
18:00 – Jacqueline Springer in conversation with Alexander Rose  
18:30 – Alexander Rose in conversation with Meehan Crist  
19:00 – Meehan Crist in conversation with Naomi Alderman  
19:30 – Naomi Alderman in conversation with Saul Griffith  
20:00 – Saul Griffith in conversation with Catalina Ortiz  
20:30 – Catalina Ortiz in conversation with John Akomfrah  
21:00 – John Akomfrah in conversation with Janna Levin  
21:30 – Janna Levin in conversation with Precious Lunga  
22:00 – Closing

Commissioned by Artangel, Longplayer began playing at midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999 in the lighthouse at Trinity Buoy Wharf, London, composed to continue for 1,000 years until it completes its cycle as the longest piece of music in history. Longplayer grew out of a conceptual concern with questions of representing and understanding the expansiveness of time. Its music changes from day to day, from century to century, conceived to endure and adapt to shifts in the technological and social environment.

## The Artangel Longplayer Assembly

In association with the London Review of Books

Saturday 26 September 2020, 10am – 10pm BST

For more information visit: [www.artangel.org.uk/longplayer-assembly/](http://www.artangel.org.uk/longplayer-assembly/)

### How to Watch

The Longplayer Assembly will be broadcast live [on YouTube](#) and on the [Artangel website](#). The audio of the event will also be broadcast by [Resonance FM](#) on 104.4 FM to central London and DAB to Greater London; on [Resonance Extra](#) on DAB to Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Cambridge, Norwich and London; nationally on Radioplayer and live-streamed to the rest of the world.

For further press information please contact Bolton & Quinn:

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### NOTES TO EDITORS

#### Longplayer

Longplayer is a one thousand year-long musical composition. It began playing at midnight on the 31st of December 1999 and will continue to play without repetition until the last moment of 2999, at which point it will complete its cycle and begin again. Conceived and composed by Jem Finer, it was originally produced as an Artangel commission, and is now in the care of the [Longplayer Trust](#). Longplayer can be heard in the lighthouse at Trinity Buoy Wharf, London, where it has been playing since it began. It can also be heard at several other [listening posts](#) around the world, and globally via a live stream on the Internet. Longplayer is composed for singing bowls – an ancient type of standing bell – which can be played by both humans and machines, and whose resonances can be very accurately reproduced in recorded form. It is designed to be adaptable to unforeseeable changes in its technological and social environments, and to endure in the long-term as a self-sustaining institution.

Longplayer grew out of a conceptual concern with problems of representing and understanding the fluidity and expansiveness of time. While it found form as a musical composition, it can also be understood as a living, 1000-year-long process – an artificial life form programmed to seek its own survival strategies. More than a piece of music, Longplayer is a social organism, depending on people – and the communication between people – for its continuation, and existing as a community of listeners across centuries. An important stage in the development of the project was the establishment of the [Longplayer Trust](#), a lineage of present and future custodians invested with the responsibility to research and implement strategies for Longplayer's survival, to ask questions as to how it might keep playing, and to seek solutions for an unknown future. <https://longplayer.org/>

#### Artangel

Artangel produces and presents extraordinary art in unexpected places across London, the UK, and beyond. For over thirty years, Artangel has generated some of the most widely discussed art of recent times, including prominent large-scale projects with artists who have become

household names in the UK, including the likes of Jeremy Deller, PJ Harvey, Roger Hiorns, Michael Landy, and Rachel Whiteread.

Recent Artangel projects include Taryn Simon's *An Occupation of Loss*, Evan Roth's *Red Lines*, Heiner Goebbels' *Everything that happened and would happen*, Jonathan Glazer's short film *STRASBOURG 1518*, made for the BBC, and Steve McQueen's *Year 3*, in collaboration with Tate Britain and A New Direction. Appearing anywhere from empty prisons to underground vaults, prime-time TV to the sky at night, Artangel produces art that takes on a multitude of forms and appears in different places to offer varying points of access and interaction to a curious public.

### The London Review of Books

The LRB is Europe's leading magazine of culture and ideas. Published twice a month, it provides a space for some of the world's best writers to explore a wide variety of subjects in exhilarating detail – from art and politics to science and technology via history and philosophy, not to mention fiction and poetry. In the age of the long read, the LRB remains the pre-eminent exponent of the intellectual essay, admired around the world for its fearlessness, its range and its elegance.

As well as book reviews, memoir and reportage, each issue also contains poems, reviews of exhibitions and movies, 'short cuts', letters and a diary, and is available in print, online, and offline via the LRB app. Subscribers enjoy unlimited access to every piece ever published by the paper, in its digital archive. The new LRB website also features a regular blog, an online store, podcasts and short documentaries, plus video highlights from events programmes on both sides of the Atlantic, and at the London Review Bookshop. [www.lrb.co.uk/](http://www.lrb.co.uk/)