

BBC

ARTS NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK

International Women's Day on BBC Radio 3

Tuesday 8th March

Radio 3's 24-hour celebration of women in music highlights inspiring figures of the past and present, and looks forward to the next generation of female composers, conductors and performers. All the music broadcast throughout the day is composed by women, and Radio 3 have compiled a wealth of information [online](#) about the lives and works of some of the great female composers.

TELEVISION

Artsnight: Thurston Moore

Friday 11th March, 23:00, BBC Two

This year, punk rock celebrates its 40th anniversary. Sonic Youth guitarist Thurston Moore was in New York in 1976 – but he had a passion for British punk. Now a London resident, Moore explores the music that changed his life, meeting Buzzcocks' Pete Shelley, Chrissie Hynde, director Julien Temple and celebrating one of his favourite bands, X-Ray Spex.





What Do Artists Do All Day? Dennis Morris

Sunday 13th March, 19:30, BBC Four

Dennis Morris is one of Britain's most successful photographers. His images of Bob Marley and the Sex Pistols helped define the art of rock photography and his early work offers a striking documentary portrait of London's black community. This film follows him photographing up-and-coming punk band Skinny Girl Diet. Plus look out for extra features from Thursday on [BBC Arts Online](#), including the story of John Lydon and Marley.

The Renaissance Unchained

Monday 7th March, 21:00, BBC Four

In the final episode of the series, Waldemar Januszczak looks at the surprising climax of the Renaissance as it spiralled into madness and distortion. This was a period full of war, confusion and darkness, which was captured perfectly in the art of Leonardo, Bosch, Arcimboldo, Palissy, the Italian Mannerists and El Greco.



ONLINE



Orkestra Obsolete: Blue Monday

Available now, BBC Arts Online

New Order's Blue Monday was released on this day in 1983, and its cutting-edge electronic groove changed pop music forever. But what would it have sounded like if it had been made 50 years earlier? In a special film, using only instruments available in the 1930s - from the theremin and musical saw to the harmonium and prepared piano - the mysterious Orkestra Obsolete present this classic track as you've never heard it before.



Jake Yapp v Punk Rock in 3m 12s

Wednesday 9th March, BBC Arts Online

In the year that punk turns 40, comedian Jake Yapp delivers a raw, stripped-back and shouty reappraisal. He argues that the Sex Pistols were just a punk version of Westlife, claims that John Lydon has become exactly the kind of boring old fart he once railed against, and concludes that the much-maligned movement should be left to die a noisy death.

Anomalisa

Wednesday 9th March, BBC News Entertainment and Arts

A middle aged man's mundane life is shaken up by an encounter in a hotel with an unusual woman. But Anomalisa itself is also out of the ordinary - the latest movie from Charlie Kaufman, starring David Thewlis and Jennifer Jason Leigh - is filmed in stop-motion animation. Described as "the first real animation for adults", the film has attracted glowing reviews.



If You Kiss Me, Kiss Me

Thursday 10th March, BBC News Entertainment and Arts

Actress and singer Jane Horrocks talks about the story behind If You Kiss Me, Kiss Me, a new kind of theatre experience at London's Young Vic. Billed as a cross between a gig and a dance piece, it will see the Ab Fab star belting out new wave songs by bands including The Smiths, Joy Division, New Order, Soft Cell and The Human League.

RADIO



Front Row

Weeknights, 19:15, BBC Radio 4

We're breaking off with One Man Two Guvnors writer Richard Bean, who takes on the world of snooker in new play The Nap, which opens at the Crucible in Sheffield this weekend starring Jack O'Connell; Catherine Tate tells us about her new role in the stage musical Miss Atomic Bomb, set in the shadow of the nuclear tests of the 1950s; and Benedict Cumberbatch explains why he's reading a letter from a young Tom Hanks.

The Essay: Inspiring Women in Music

Weeknights, 22:45, BBC Radio 3

In the week of International Women's Day, five women tell us about their lives in music including what, and who, inspires them. Contributors include mezzo-soprano Sarah Connolly (pictured), composer Nicola LeFanu, former soprano Kathryn McAdam, conductor Alice Farnham and cellist Zoe Martlew.



The Cultural Frontline

Saturday 12th March, 12:30 BBC World Service

Canadian novelist Yann Martel, author of *Life of Pi*, reflects on why he draws creative inspiration from animals, and as Barcelona's Sagrada Familia approaches 134 years since work began, architect Ethel Baraona Pohl considers whether it should ever be finished.



Sunday Feature: Brainwash Culture

Sunday 13th March, 18:45, BBC Radio 3

If brainwashing is just an old Cold War myth, why does it still trouble our culture? Daniel Pick investigates and discovers that its roots go back well before its supposed birth in Korea.



Open Book

Sunday 13th March, 16:00, BBC Radio 4

Mariella Frostrup talks to award-winning Spanish novelist Javier Marias, whose latest book *Thus Bad Begins* explores the intimate, even suffocating, relationship between a filmmaker, his wife and a family friend.



Words and Music: The Singer and the Song

Sunday 13th March, 17:30, BBC Radio 3

Jessie Buckley and Julian Ovenden, both actors who sing themselves, present words and music on the theme of singing - from Flaubert to Mark Doty and a cornucopia of vocal music.

Music Matters

Saturday 12th March, 12:15, BBC Radio 3

Marking the 450th anniversary of Carlo Gesualdo's birth, Petroc Trelawny travels to Naples to explore one of the most notorious figures in classical music history. The Italian composer-prince, well known for brutally murdering his first wife and her lover, produced mysteriously enchanting music which still sounds fresh to audiences today.



Free Thinking

Tue 8th – Thu 10th March, 22:00, BBC Radio 3

For International Women's Day we meet performance poet Hollie McNish and composer Emily Hall, and discuss 17th-century bestseller *Mother's Blessing*. Plus Javier Marias and Ben Okri on Cervantes, Peter H Wilson on the Holy Roman Empire, Rupert Shortt and Janet Soskice on Christianity today, and a new London gallery specialising in art of the Middle East opens with paintings by Iranian artist Reza Derakshani.

Asian Network Presents: The Music of RD Burman

Sunday 13th March, 13:00, BBC Asian Network

Indian songstress Sona Mohapatra and the BBC Philharmonic reinterpret the compositions of the late, great Indian film composer RD Burman, whose joyful, hypnotic songs and film scores embody the sound of Bollywood. Marking the 75th anniversary of his birth, they perform classics including Aaja Aaja, Piya Tu Ab To Aaja, Chand Mera Dil and Yamma Yamma.



The Verb

Friday 11th March, 22:00, BBC Radio 3

Ian McMillan's guests - writer Marina Warner, artist Grayson Perry, composer Sarah Angliss and singer-songwriter Zara McFarlane - consider the role of gender in creativity.



Poetry Please

Sunday 13th March, 16:30, BBC Radio 4

Roger McGough presents a programme dedicated to the Orkney poet and prose writer George Mackay Brown, who died 20 years ago this year.



Sound of Cinema

Saturday 12th March, 15:00, BBC Radio 3

Matthew Sweet looks at music for films about soulmates in the week of the launch of Charlie Kaufman's *Anomalisa* with a new score by Carter Burwell.



A Good Read

Tuesday 8th March, 16:30, BBC Radio 4

Authors John O'Farrell and Joe Dunthorne talk great books with Harriett Gilbert, including works by Denis Johnson and Cathy Rentzenbrink, and Harriett introduces both guests to a modern classic: *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson. She asks why it is that men don't seem to read one of the greatest living novelists.

Between the Ears: The Three Second Rule

Saturday 12th March, 21:30, BBC Radio 3

If you wake up with the answer to a problem, put it down to the three second rule - a magical idea that shows a relaxed brain may be the most creative. Artist Susan Aldworth slips inside a scanner, under the control of Prof Miles Whittington and Dr Fiona LeBeau, to discover whether paying heed to the three second rhythm of the mind can help us work, rest and play.



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Arts Daily on Outlook

Weekdays, 12:00, BBC World Service

From a prison cell to the theatre stage, the Russian actress Marina Klesheva explains how her life was transformed by drama; Alek Popov talks about using his experience working in the Bulgarian Embassy as the basis for his comic novel Mission London; plus British micro-sculptor Willard Wigan, whose works are so small they can only be seen through a microscope.



Opera on 3: Don Pasquale

Saturday 12th March, 18:00, BBC Radio 3

Donizetti's light-hearted opera Don Pasquale, conducted by Maurizio Benini, with Eleonora Buratto and Javier Camarena, live from the Metropolitan Opera House, New York.



The Film Programme

Thursday 10th March, 16:00, BBC Radio 4

Charlie Kaufman discusses his latest comedy about modern alienation, Anomalisa - a stop motion animation about self-help gurus, one-night stands and the sterility of the contemporary hotel.



Drama on 3: Three Sisters

Sunday 13th March, 21:00, BBC Radio 3

Chekhov's Russian classic tells of three sisters living in a garrison town in provincial Russia and dreaming of the day that they will return to Moscow. But somehow real life keeps getting in the way.



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