# Little Simz closes Meltdown 2025 with groundbreaking Chineke! Orchestra collaboration



Rapper Little Simz brought the 2025 Meltdown festival to a spectacular close at London’s Southbank Centre with a standout orchestral performance. The show took place at the Royal Festival Hall and saw the Mercury Prize-winning artist, whose real name is Simbiatu Ajikawo, collaborating with the Chineke! Orchestra, Europe’s first majority Black and ethnically diverse orchestra. The performance included appearances from notable guests such as rapper Wretch 32, Nigerian artist Obongjayar, and singer Miraa May, adding an exhilarating dynamic to the event.

The concert featured a selection from Little Simz’s extensive catalogue, including tracks from her highly anticipated sixth studio album, *Lotus*, set for release on 9 May 2025. This collaboration underlined the innovative spirit of both Little Simz and the Chineke! Orchestra, blending hip-hop and orchestral music in a way rarely seen on UK stages. The orchestra’s participation in the festival showcased their commitment to diversity and expanding classical music’s reach.

This closing show capped off Little Simz’s role as the youngest artist to curate Meltdown, a prestigious festival celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Her appointment as curator places her alongside legendary figures like David Bowie and Patti Smith who have shaped the festival’s legacy. Little Simz’s own achievements, including her acclaimed album *Sometimes I Might Be Introvert* and her acting role in the Netflix series *Top Boy*, have firmly established her as a formidable creative force both within and beyond music.

The Meltdown festival, running from 12 to 22 June 2025 at the Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall, featured a rich and diverse lineup announced earlier this year. Artists such as The Streets, Lola Young, Ghetts, and Jon Batiste brought varied sounds and energy to the festival stages. The return of Meltdown under Little Simz’s direction has been met with enthusiasm, with critics praising the festival’s vibrancy and the empowering performances of emerging talents like BRIT School graduate Lola Young.

Little Simz’s tenure as curator has been notable for its bold programming choices that highlight diversity and artistic exploration, reinvigorating Meltdown’s place in London’s cultural calendar. Her closing orchestral performance with Chineke! Orchestra not only symbolised the festival’s celebratory spirit but also set a high bar for future editions by combining genres and featuring a broad array of voices.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/music/its-been-incredible-little-simz-ends-meltdown-festival-with-orchestral-show/a1570167100.html), [[2]](https://www.chineke.org/Little-Simz)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.chineke.org/Little-Simz), [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/music/its-been-incredible-little-simz-ends-meltdown-festival-with-orchestral-show/a1570167100.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/little-simz-named-as-curator-of-southbank-music-festival-meltdown-2025-b1210642.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/little-simz-meltdown-2025-first-acts-announced-the-streets-ghetts-b1218774.html), [[6]](https://southbank.london/news/little-simz-meltdown-first-acts-revealed), [[7]](https://www.iamhiphopmagazine.com/little-simz-curates-an-unforgettable-meltdown-2025-at-the-southbank-centre/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/8fa85cf0-d80e-454f-988f-3877954a06e5), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/little-simz-meltdown-2025-first-acts-announced-the-streets-ghetts-b1218774.html), [[7]](https://www.iamhiphopmagazine.com/little-simz-curates-an-unforgettable-meltdown-2025-at-the-southbank-centre/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/music/its-been-incredible-little-simz-ends-meltdown-festival-with-orchestral-show/a1570167100.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.chineke.org/Little-Simz> - This page provides details about Little Simz's collaboration with the Chineke! Orchestra for a special performance at the Royal Festival Hall on June 22, 2025. It highlights the unique partnership between the Mercury Prize-winning rapper and Europe's first majority Black and ethnically diverse orchestra. The event is set to feature selections from Little Simz's extensive catalogue, including tracks from her forthcoming sixth studio album, 'Lotus', scheduled for release on May 9, 2025. ([chineke.org](https://www.chineke.org/Little-Simz?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/little-simz-named-as-curator-of-southbank-music-festival-meltdown-2025-b1210642.html> - This article announces Little Simz as the curator for the 2025 edition of London's Meltdown festival, marking the 30th anniversary of the event. It discusses her selection as the youngest artist to curate the festival, following in the footsteps of previous curators like David Bowie and Patti Smith. The piece also highlights Little Simz's achievements, including her Mercury Prize win for her album 'Sometimes I Might Be Introvert' and her role in the Netflix series 'Top Boy'. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/little-simz-named-as-curator-of-southbank-music-festival-meltdown-2025-b1210642.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/little-simz-meltdown-2025-first-acts-announced-the-streets-ghetts-b1218774.html> - This article reveals the first wave of artists performing at Little Simz's curated Meltdown 2025 festival. The lineup includes The Streets, Lola Young, and Ghetts, with performances scheduled between June 12 and June 22 at the Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall. The piece provides insights into the festival's diverse lineup and the excitement surrounding its return. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/meltdown-2025-little-simz-lineup-b1218774.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/8fa85cf0-d80e-454f-988f-3877954a06e5> - This review highlights the resurgence of the Meltdown Festival under Little Simz's curation. It focuses on the performance of Lola Young, a BRIT School graduate, who electrified the Royal Festival Hall with her powerful voice and unfiltered personality. The review praises Young's authenticity and the festival's revitalised vibrancy, marking a promising return to cultural relevance for Meltdown. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/8fa85cf0-d80e-454f-988f-3877954a06e5?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://southbank.london/news/little-simz-meltdown-first-acts-revealed> - This announcement reveals the first wave of artists performing at Little Simz's curated Meltdown 2025 festival. The lineup includes The Streets, Lola Young, Ghetts, and Jon Batiste, with performances scheduled between June 12 and June 22 at the Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall. The piece provides insights into the festival's diverse lineup and the excitement surrounding its return. ([southbank.london](https://southbank.london/news/little-simz-meltdown-first-acts-revealed?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.iamhiphopmagazine.com/little-simz-curates-an-unforgettable-meltdown-2025-at-the-southbank-centre/> - This article discusses Little Simz's curation of the 2025 Meltdown festival at the Southbank Centre. It highlights the unique collaboration between Little Simz and the Chineke! Orchestra for a special performance at the Royal Festival Hall on June 22, 2025. The piece also mentions other acts in the lineup, including The Streets, Lola Young, Ghetts, and Jon Batiste, and provides details about the festival's schedule and venue. ([iamhiphopmagazine.com](https://www.iamhiphopmagazine.com/little-simz-curates-an-unforgettable-meltdown-2025-at-the-southbank-centre/?utm_source=openai))