

Mixing cultures in the jazz club

The 100 Club in London is amongst the capital's leading venues, being renowned for showcasing the world's foremost jazz, blues and rock stars for nearly 70 years. However, the walls resounded to a different song on 9 November with a concert of classical music in the *Limelight* series. Sharing the bill with cellist Natalie Clein, Azerbaijani violin virtuoso Sabina Rakcheyeva performed a mix of cross-cultural compositions with her Ensemble.

The set began with a duet version of Sabina's piece *Once in Baku*, alongside young pianist Ayyan Salahova, who has just been accepted to study at the Royal Academy of Music. Following this, her regular Ensemble was joined by British jazz pianist Kit Downes for a range of compositions, including Sabina's piece *Towards the East*, which combines western classical and mugham themes and *Clock*, written by oud player Attab Haddad. Following applause from the capacity audience, the concert ended with a passionate version of Astor Piazzolla's *Oblivion Tango*. Sabina was the first Azerbaijani graduate from the Juilliard School of Music in New York and is a TEAS Advisory Board member, focusing on arts and culture. A few days later, Sabina and Attab travelled to the USA to perform with US-based musicians in New York and Princeton.



Sabina Rakcheyeva took her unique mix of musical influences out of the concert hall and into the jazz venue