

Press release



September 2026

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Absolute Sounds presents 'The Happening'

The Happening is an audio event like no other, heading to Haycock Manor Hotel – an idyllic country house hotel in Wansford, Cambridgeshire – on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th October

London, England -- A celebration of extraordinary sound, brilliant music and the art of listening as a lifestyle, the Happening is a special gathering curated by Absolute Sounds – the UK's foremost high-end audio distributor for almost 50 years.

For one remarkable weekend, The Happening brings passionate music lovers together with some of the world's finest audio systems – and the visionary people who create them. Absolute Sounds has spent decades perfecting the art of system building; The Happening offers a rare opportunity to experience that expertise first-hand and discover just how powerful music can be when nothing stands between you and the performance.

Across six beautifully appointed rooms, a collection of meticulously matched systems drawn from the pinnacle of high-end audio will reveal extraordinary realism, coherence and emotional presence – the result of careful selection, painstaking installation and perfect system balance.

Throughout the weekend, further highlights add an extra dimension to this celebration of music and sound. These include live performances, intimate Q&As, vinyl vendors and a sound bath experience. Meanwhile, leading manufacturers from Europe, America, Australia and Japan will share the craftsmanship, technology and engineering philosophies behind their creations.

The entrance fee is £5 (plus Eventbrite’s £1.13 booking fee). Every penny of the £5 ticket price goes to Cancer Research UK. Tickets and event information are available at absolutesoundshappening.co.uk.

More details about the experiences awaiting visitors to The Happening follow below...



Six rooms. Exceptional sound.

Carefully matched systems, assembled by Absolute Sounds. Explore the recordings you love with a new sense of scale, detail and presence.

Discover the latest creations from world-class audio brands, including:

DIGITAL SOURCES	AMPLIFIERS	LOUDSPEAKERS
Antipodes Audio	Audio Research	DeVore Fidelity
dCS	Constellation Audio	Franco Serblin
Nagra	Copland	Magico
Oladra	Dan D'Agostino	Wilson Audio
VINYL	HSE Swiss	SUPPORTS & CABLES
Analog Relax	Nagra	Artesania Audio
Döhrmann Audio	PrimaLuna	Ikigai Audio
Reed	Robert Koda	Transparent Audio
TechDAS	Trafomatic Audio	
Thiele	Zikra Audio	

International music mixologists

Remarkable recordings and stories worth hearing. Join passionate musicophiles on a musical journey through their treasured collections.

The finest audio systems are instruments for a single purpose: to unlock music's extraordinary ability to move us – to uplift and energise, or to soothe and restore.

That emotional connection lies at the heart of The Happening. Distinguished audio trailblazers open the doors to their personal music collections, sharing exceptional recordings through some of the finest systems in the world.

Our 'international music mixologists' hail from America, Denmark, France, Italy and Switzerland. They include acclaimed recording engineers, high-end audio impresarios and leading figures from some of the world's most respected audio manufacturers. Above all, they are passionate music collectors, each bringing their own musical sensibility to The Happening to create a highly personal cocktail of music.



Meet the makers

Meet the designers, engineers and manufacturers behind exceptional audio. Discover the ideas, craftsmanship and care that shape what you hear.

From Antipodes to Zikra, The Happening brings together 26 of the world's finest audio brands, showcasing their latest creations and giving visitors a rare opportunity to meet the people behind them.

Founders, CEOs, designers and brand ambassadors are flying in from around the world to take part. Some will demonstrate their latest creations in the listening rooms; others will present new innovations. All will be on hand to share their expertise, answer questions and talk about the ideas and craftsmanship behind their products.

With several bona fide legends of high-end audio among them – many of whom rarely visit the UK – this is a unique opportunity to meet the people shaping the sound of high-end audio today.

Q&A panels

Special interview sessions. Like a high-end audio chat show, hosted by Alan Sircom.

Throughout the weekend, Hi-Fi+ Editor Alan Sircom hosts a series of special interview sessions exploring the personalities, ideas and technologies shaping high-end audio.

Each session brings together a panel of industry luminaries to share their insights and experience – with the audience invited to sit in and enjoy the conversation firsthand. Think Graham Norton with less glitz and a more articulate midrange.

Live music

The Happening combines extraordinary audio systems with brilliant live music.

Special performances from two distinctive musical traditions bring an extra dimension to this festival of music and sound. From contemporary blues to the evocative acoustic traditions of the Eastern Mediterranean, each has been chosen to celebrate music in its purest form – and the powerful connection between artist, audience and beautiful sound.

Saturday 17th October: London's Dust Me Down Blues Band brings tight grooves and good times to Saturday evening. From authentic Chicago blues to seventies funk, gospel and the occasional jazzy detour, this four-piece follows Black American music wherever the groove takes them.

Expect a charismatic, energising set from musicians steeped in London's blues scene – soulful, sophisticated and deeply rooted in the groove.



Sunday 18th October: Palestinian oud virtuoso Nizar Rohana and Dutch double bassist Tony Overwater create a compelling musical conversation, distilling the spirit of the acclaimed Nizar Rohana Trio into its purest form: two voices, intertwining as equals.

Rohana draws on Arabic and Middle Eastern traditions while reaching towards Bach, Miles Davis and Paco de Lucía; Overwater brings jazz lyricism and a lifelong curiosity about music beyond the Western

canon. Together they trade melody, rhythm and harmony in music that is rooted, reflective and full of quiet virtuosity.

No percussion, no safety net – just two master musicians listening closely and creating something new in real time.

Nagra live recording: Renowned Nagra live recording engineer Matthieu Latour will record both performances, capturing the magic of exceptional musicianship forever.

The restorative power of sound

Take a moment to pause. Join psychologist and wellbeing specialist Kasia Richter for a ‘sound bath’ experience.

Kasia Richter, founder of Wellbeing Strategist, invites visitors to experience the profound and restorative power of sound. Her remarkable live ‘sound baths’, created with gongs, singing bowls and other carefully selected instruments, offer a rare opportunity to pause, relax and let go.

During these 20-minute introductory sessions, simply settle in, close your eyes and immerse yourself in a kaleidoscopic soundscape of frequencies and tones, carefully shaped to quiet the mind and encourage a deeper sense of calm. No experience is necessary; just allow the sound to unfold around you.

The influence of sound on mood, emotion and wellbeing is well established, with rhythm, tone, volume and vibration affecting attention, arousal and our perception of stress. It is perhaps no surprise, then, that the purity, scale and emotional power of high-performance audio can affect us so profoundly – especially when combined with music we love.



For the love of vinyl

Browse records, meet specialist sellers and discover something unexpected for your collection.

Vinyl lovers will have plenty to discover at The Happening, with established record specialists bringing an enticing selection of LPs to browse and buy. Whether you’re hunting for a sought-after rarity,

rediscovering a forgotten favourite or simply looking for something unexpected, it's the perfect place to indulge your passion for vinyl.

And with some of the finest turntables in the world in the demo rooms, visitors can experience the sound of vinyl records at their brilliant best.



Left Haycock Manor Hotel in Cambridgeshire – an idyllic location for The Happening



Absolute Sounds is the UK's leading importer and distributor of high-end audio equipment. The company was formed in 1978 by Ricardo Franassovici, who left a successful career in the music industry to become one of the world's leading hi-fi entrepreneurs. Ricardo's burning desire has always been to give UK-based music lovers the opportunity to experience audio at the highest level, cherry-picking the very best components from around the globe to create a 'hi-fi boutique' overflowing with highly covetable, high-performance products. Like the finest watches and most prestigious motorcars, these brands deliver finely tuned, supremely engineered products that simply ooze desirability. If you are seeking the world's best audio equipment, Absolute Sounds is your first port of call.

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