

In *Promises* by Floating Points featuring the London Symphony Orchestra, we encounter an expansive lexicon of repetition, excited and transformed by a pre-linguistic dance. The traditional instruments of the LSO gather around and explode. Pharoah Sanders rips the tenor with mad-hatter phrases, while Samuel Shepherd shapes a synthetic field. Here, acoustic and electronic vocabularies intertwine: repetition generates expectation, pace, and a foothold. Variation produces novelty, and the listener is suspended between recognition and hallucination, engaging with sound as both archive and living presence.



Live performance of *Promises* with the Los Angeles Studio Orchestra (9/20/2023) at the Hollywood Bowl ([click image to be redirected](#)).

There is something exceptionally heavy about this performance. Without Sanders, who passed in 2022, his absence becomes presence. Those wandering, ecstatic, almost mischievous phrases hover above the ensemble in an ultraviolet world remembering the pulse of a great musician. Sam Shepherd understands.