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Inauguration Celebration: Patti Smith Performance Will Stream Worldwide on the 20th – Via London

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Despite a decimated international touring circuit (though it is quite possible there may be some live shows happening in Auckland, Wellington and other parts of nearly virus free New Zealand), the most resourceful artists have refused to give up – especially when we actually need their art more than ever. To wit, the legendary Patti Smith recorded two solo performances, one of which streamed on what was to be the first New Year’s Eve ever that pretty much everyone had to stay home.

The event was also broadcast on the iconic Piccadilly Lights screen in London’s usually chaotic Piccadilly Circus, part of a month long takeover that was orchestrated for Smith by the digital platform CIRCA. For the 31-day program, she has already delivered a moving rendition of ‘Auld Lang Syne,’ read a poem titled 2021: A New Year, inspired by William Blake, and dedicated another to Swedish environmental activist / ball of fire Greta Thunberg on her 18th birthday.

“This is ‘The Cup’ and it was written with great urgency, which is why I would like to dedicate it to @gretathunberg on her 18th birthday. Her message for us all. A message we must all

embrace. Is one of action. Of a school girl who stepped out on her own. And appealed to us all. To save our Earth. Together.”

A second recorded performance, however, is scheduled to celebrate what is sure to be the most joyous date on the 2021 calendar so far: the Presidential Inauguration Day of Joe Biden, along with his Vice President Kamala Harris. And considering recent events, it’s a date that cannot possibly come soon enough. Not only will it mark the end of the *quattuor annorum horribilis* that was the Trump presidency – but it will also put the final nail in the coffin of 45’s demented ongoing attempts to steal the election from his winning opponent.

Of course, where we really want to be on January 20th, is in London, watching it on the spectacular 4K curved display. But sadly, that is not meant to be.

Smith will be appearing on the Piccadilly Lights screen every day between now and January 31 – and we could not possibly think of a more perfect person to inspire us on to better times.

