

## Festival Key:

**1. Music Room**  
Main Stage

**2. Learning Building**  
Music Space

**3. Billiard Room**  
Info & Social Action Space

**4. Tea Rooms**  
Buskers

**5. Spence Courtyard**  
Food Court

**6. Orchard and Woodland**  
Woodland Activities





## Pledges

Throughout the festival there will be a chance to share your pledges and responses to our themes of humanity, nature and social action on our special Pledge Wall.

## What did you think?

We'd love to know what you thought about UNITY Festival. Let us know on:

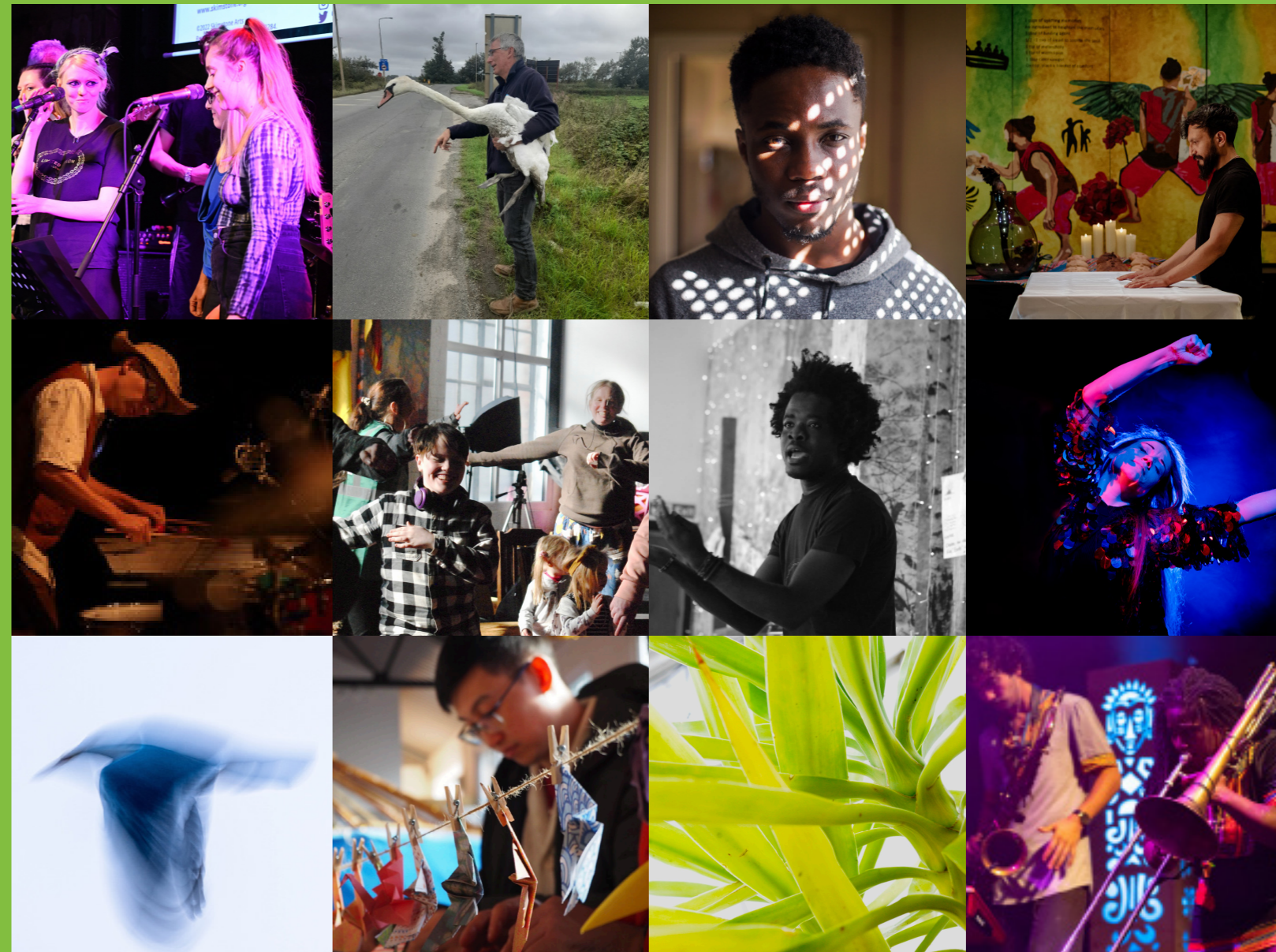
 @Skimstone\_Arts    
  @SkimstoneArtsEnsemble    
  @skimstonearts    
 #UNITYFestival2023



Skimstone  
Arts

Preston Park Museum

**UNITY**  
Festival '23



“UNITY Festival 2023 is an opportunity for people from all walks of life to come together to be part of a community, explore the natural world and consider what we can do to make a difference. Created with diversity at its heart this playful, creative free Festival has been co-designed with community groups we work with across the North East of England.”

Claire Webster Saaremets, Artistic Director, Skimstone Arts

## What's On Saturday 18 March

### Main Stage

#### Movement Workshop, 10.30am

Begin the day in style with a gentle and playful body and senses warm up with Nii Kwartey Owoo ready for a full day of UNITY Festival.

#### African Dance Workshop, 11am

Feel alive as Ghanaian musician and choreographer Nii Kwartey Owoo leads Festival-goers on a joyful exploration into African dance techniques.

#### The Power of Naming, 1pm

Explore the power of our names in this new collaboration between performance artist Yuvel Soria and Keith Hill to create a modern ritual for our contemporary world through dance, moving images, soundscapes and music.

#### Jumpin' Journeys, 2.30pm

Don't miss rapper Kema Kay as he invites you on a thoughtful, entertaining and energetic musical journey through his life.

#### UNITY Party, 3pm

Join Skimstone Arts' Artistic Director Claire Webster Saaremets, rapper Kema Kay as well as musicians who have taken part in UNITY Festival for a special UNITY Festival jam-session that you can dance along to.

### Music Space

#### Rap Workshop, 11am

Join rapper and singer songwriter Kema Kay to explore how we can use our humanity to make the world a better place. Music is a great way to get a message across so join Kema to make a rap.

#### Talk with Chris Francis from the RSPB, 12pm

Nature-lovers can join Chris Francis, Senior Site Manager at RSPB Saltholme, as he shares his 60 year journey through saving the whale and the rainforests, to our current nature and climate emergency.

#### Rhythm Stories

##### - African Drumming Workshop, 1pm

Join Ghanaian musician and choreographer Nii Kwartey Owoo for a fun and lively workshop exploring rhythm and different characters from West African stories.

#### Underneath, Within, Beyond - Meet the Sun & The Soul Company and see Film, 2pm

Meet members of the creative team who worked with Skimstone Arts to make this film, soundtrack and exhibition inspired by Preston Park's Winter Gardens and their shared stories and dreams.

## What's On Sunday 19 March

### Main Stage

#### Movement Workshop, 10.30am

Begin the day in style with a gentle and playful body and senses warm up with Nii Kwartey Owoo ready for a full day of UNITY Festival.

#### African Dance Workshop, 11am

Feel alive as Ghanaian musician and choreographer Nii Kwartey Owoo leads Festival-goers on a joyful exploration into African dance techniques.

#### Forest Fading - Digital Moves, 1.30pm

Watch a new music video created by Leeds based dance artist Jem Clancy for Reality Boots' song *Forest Fading* as it is shared for the first time.

#### Reality Boots, 2pm

Join Reality Boots for an eclectic set of music that will get the body moving and mind thinking. Made up of passionate voices each with unique experiences, Reality Boots' set features powerful songs around themes of humanity and supporting each other.

#### Hannabiell and the Midnight Blue Collective, 2.30pm

Don't miss this high energy Afro Fusion Collective who fuse powerful and upbeat Latin & African percussion, brass, vocal chants, Blues, Jazz, Afro-beat, Funk and Reggae to create a unique sound and party atmosphere that will get you up on your feet.

### Music Space

#### Songwriting & Social Action, 11am

Interested in having a go at writing a song? Then join young musicians from Skimstone Arts' band Reality Boots and find out about their approach to creating songs with a focus on social action.

#### Underneath, Within, Beyond - Meet the Sun & The Soul Company and see Film, 12.30pm

Meet members of the creative team who worked with Skimstone Arts to make this film, soundtrack and exhibition inspired by Preston Park's Winter Gardens and their shared stories and dreams.

#### Rhythm Stories

##### - African Drumming Workshop, 1pm

Join Ghanaian musician and choreographer Nii Kwartey Owoo for a fun and lively workshop exploring rhythm and different characters from West African stories.

### Info & Social Action Space

#### Meet the Photographers, 1.30pm

Join Skimstone Arts' Artistic Director Claire Webster Saaremets, a photographer in her own right, with Associate Artist and photographer Kev Howard to hear about their love of birds and their experience of capturing birds in motion.

## Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 March, all day

### Info & Social Action Space

Be the first to see *Birds in Flight* a breath-taking new exhibition by Teesside-based photographer Kev Howard which celebrates the beauty and grace of the movement of birds in flight using the technique of long-exposure photography.

*Underneath, Within, Beyond*, inspired by exploring the underneath and often hidden parts of plants in Winter Gardens and our own stories and dreams, is an exhibition that celebrates the beauty of growth. This has been created by Skimstone Arts' The Sun & The Soul Company (people with lived refugee experience living in Stockton and Sunderland.)

Finally, *Where Do You Sit?* features photographic portraits of ordinary people who have shared extraordinary stories or co-created poems and lyrics responding to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day captured by Shahor Omar, Ako Ismail and Claire Webster Saaremets.

#### The Wild Escape - Easels in the Orchard

Head into the woodlands to have a go at using animal images from the Museum's collection as inspiration to create landscapes of the animals

back in the wild and conjure up creative ways that they might've escaped the museum and help picture a future for UK nature.

#### Buskers

Don't miss buskers from across the region as they bring the Victoria Street to life throughout the Festival.