



just festival

2023

DISPLACEMENT

Just Festival 2023 explores themes of displaced people, climate, environment, objects and sounds.

5 - 26 August

St John's Church, Princes Street
and

St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place



www.just-festival.org

#justfest23

I'm delighted to be sharing the 2023 Just Festival programme, which this year is themed around 'Displacement'. We've put together a programme of art, dance, concerts and conversations that focuses on the experiences of displaced people, the meanings associated with displaced objects, and the impacts of environmental and climate displacement. When looking at the theme "Displacement", I wanted to try and capture the unease that that word can cause, and to look at the concept of displacement from multiple angles. I hope that this festival, in some small way, can bring together a few of these angles and link with our shared humanity.

"Pathways to Peace from Disparate Points" is our central installation's title, which brings together artworks created by Ukrainians and Edinburgh locals. Developed by Dr Caleb Froehlich from the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanity at the University of Edinburgh, it explores the potential of art objects in building compassionate and constructive relationships between people from disparate points of geography, culture, and life.

In our performance programme, we are excited to be welcoming back international artists for the first time since the pandemic. Canadian dance group Dance Fachin bring their work "The Fourth R", a powerful piece of climate activism realised through dance and multimedia, and Texan baritone and guitar duo David Asbury and Bruce Cain will perform songs rooted in the beauty and mystery of the natural world. Closer to home, we have again partnered with Live Music Now Scotland for a trio of concerts, as well as with the Edinburgh Festival of Sacred Arts for "Songs of Displacement", a poignant recital of musical settings of poetry written by children in concentration camps. Edinburgh based violinist Emma Lloyd will give a concert of music for solo violin and electronics with new music organisation The Night With... that captures the aural effect of displaced sounds.

Our Just Talking series is again a key part of our programming, and we will be addressing issues of displaced cultures, the displacement and repatriation of museum objects, and the roles and responsibilities of touring artists in a displaced climate. We've also teamed up with St Mary's Cathedral for a book launch by Syrian artist Issam Kourbaj and a conversation with playwright Jo Clifford. Our full programme can be viewed at www.just-festival.org. We can't wait to see you!

Miranda Heggie
Just Festival Manager

Just Exhibits

Pathways to Peace from Disparate Points

Our central installation brings together artworks created by Ukrainians and Edinburgh locals together in five art-making workshops in music, photography, pottery-making, loom-weaving, and cooking. It explores the potential of art objects in building compassionate and constructive relationships between people from disparate points of geography, culture, and life.

The exhibition includes a photography series, hand-built pottery vessels, a loom sculpture and a musical performance. Food from the cooking workshop will be available for purchase at Pulse, a plant-based home cooking kitchen and eatery below the sanctuary of St Johns' Church.

Monday - Saturday, 5 - 26 August (*not 10th*)
10.30am - 5pm (*closed during performances*)
St John's Church, Free, Suggested donation £7

Peacemakers' Loom

Fusing elements of contemporary art practice, craftivism and spiritual accompaniment, 'Peacemakers' focuses on peacemaking at a personal and relational level, as a response to the conflict we encounter within our lives and the wider world. Visitors are invited to join the artists in the simple action of knitting on the loom and building peace through the sharing of many small actions and kind words.

Everyone is welcome; please feel free to donate a ball of wool.

Monday - Saturday, 7 - 19 August (*not 10th*)
10.30am - 5pm
St John's Church, Free, Suggested donation £7

Holy Writ

This stunning sculptural textile, designed by artist Hayley Brooks, was created as a community project in 2014 in association with the 'Holy Writ' exhibition in Lichfield.

This multi-faith project reflects on 10 words that are each important, and in common, to the three Abrahamic faiths. The 10 words selected were translated into Hebrew, Greek, Latin and Arabic. Each participant chose one word, in one language/script, and worked that word onto a fabric square using a method of their own choice, for example, embroidery, collage and fabric painting.

Monday - Saturday, 5 - 26 August (*not 10th*)
10.30am - 5pm (*closed during performances*)
St John's Church, Free, Suggested donation £7

Of Voices/Pathways

Of Voices/Pathways is part of the A+E (Arts and Ecology) programme at St Mary's Cathedral. It explores the role of artists and craft makers as they respond to the climate and ecological crisis. The work on display, responds to the climate and ecological crisis by articulating voices/pathways of creative resistance and ecological renewal. Whether framed within the language of secular or spiritual practice, these expanded forms of art/craft/film/liturgy have the power to re-root and re-route us; to transform us by any other name.

Monday - Sunday 4 - 28 August
10am - 5pm
The Chapter House,
St Mary's Cathedral, Free, Suggested donation £7



Just Movement

The Fourth R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, REVOLUTIONIZE

The Fourth R is a powerful piece of contemporary dance and climate activism from Canadian group Dance Fachin. Combining compelling choreography and thought-provoking video projections, The Fourth R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, REVOLUTIONIZE! follows the story of three individuals: a consumer, an affluent worker; a producer, CEO of Bank of Russia; and a sufferer, an impoverished individual, vulnerable to natural disasters. Each of these characters' choices (and lack thereof) affect not only them but the physical world around them. Continuing Dance Fachin's mission to create impactful work, The Fourth R: reduce, reuse, recycle, Revolutionize questions the effects of capitalism on our environment.

The Fourth R is an energized look into the people and behaviours that fuel one of the most pressing topics on planet Earth: global warming. The piece revolves around three characters who are emblematic of three major players in this crisis: those that produce, those that consume, and those that suffer. The spirit of this piece is in the fact that we are all reflected in one or more of these characters, and their trials and even shortcomings resonate universally.

Friday 11, Saturday 12, Wednesday 16*, Friday 18 August, 8pm
Saturday 12 August, Monday 14, Tuesday 15 August, Saturday 19 August, 2pm
Pay what you can; suggested ticket price £13
St John's Church



Just Paintings

Displaced Waters

Displaced Waters is a solo show of contemporary Scottish artist Catherine King. It comprises paintings of oceans and coastlines from places in Scotland Catherine has visited, including the Hebridean, Orkney and Shetland Islands. It captures the majesty and raw power of the water, and incorporates reflections on how these places will change as the climate crisis escalates.

Catherine's practice is inspired by a connection with Place, Family and the Passage of Time. Catherine has exhibited with Just Festival, Glasgow Art Club, Scotlandart.com, The Line Gallery Linlithgow and the Lillie Art Gallery and Museum. She has also exhibited in Mono City, Japan and has taken part in a touring exhibition with Fife Printmakers in collaboration with Japanese Papermakers. These works have visited various Scottish Public Galleries including the Carnegie Galleries in Dunfermline and Glasgow Printmakers.

Monday - Saturday, 5 - 26 August (not 10th), 10.30am - 5pm (closed during performances) St John's Church, Free, Suggested donation £7

Just Listen

Songs of the Universe

Bruce Cain and David Asbury are a baritone and guitar duo from Georgetown, Texas. They have performed together for nearly 25 years, playing throughout the US, and in Europe, Australia and Morocco. They have had more than thirty works written for them, and their programmes contain themes of environmental activism, conservation and the beauty and mystery of the natural world.

Performing in English and Spanish, Bruce and David bring an eclectic programme of moving works written over the past century by American, European and Latinx composers.

Monday 7 and Wednesday 9 August,
2pm and 6pm, St John's Church £12 (£10)

Songs of Displacement

Two song cycles by Lori Laitman exploring displacement in WW2 performed by Calum Robertson (clarinet) and Sally Carr (soprano). In conjunction with the Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts, this highly accomplished duo will perform Laitman's setting of two poetical works: I Never Saw Another Butterfly is a collection of poems written by children at the time of the Holocaust; and The Ocean of Eternity is a setting of four poems reflecting on the experience of Jews in Nazi Germany. Written by Anne Ranasinghe (1925 – 2016), a German born Jewish poet, she subsequently became one of Sri Lanka's leading English language poets and won several international awards.

Sunday 13 August, 9pm - 10pm, St John's Church
£10 (£8)

Displaced Sounds: The Night With... Emma Lloyd

Just Festival is excited to have partnered with The Night With... for the first time. This concert of solo violin and electronics. Electronically affected sounds blur with natural effects of the building's reverb, giving an aural impression of displacement to the listener.

The Night With... is a new music organisation based in Glasgow presenting salon style concerts of interesting music in intimate, informal venues across Scotland and further afield. Run by composer and electronic performer Matthew Whiteside, it provides development and commissioning opportunities for young and emerging composers.

Emma Lloyd is an international performer, improviser, composer, and artist. She performs as a soloist and in small ensembles, working often with live electronics, and collaborating regularly with composers. In addition to the modern set-up, she plays a baroque violin and performs both baroque and contemporary music written specifically for this instrument. As an improviser, Emma's performance tends to be quiet and intimate in nature, exploring the innate timbral qualities of the violin, and discovering some of the often hidden sounds that can be found with her unique combination of technique and tools.

Saturday 19 August, 8pm - 9.30pm, St John's Church
£12 (£10)



Closing Concert: Piece by Peace

Concluding our central installation, Pathways to Peace from Disparate Points, this programme comprises new songs written in workshops led by community composer Sally Jaquet. As well as Sally's evocative intertwinings of Scottish and Ukrainian folk music and stories, we will hear choral settings of traditional Scottish songs. This performance will be given by the group of Ukrainian and Scottish singers who came together in these workshops, plus singers from choirs around the city, and will let these newly composed songs have a chance to be heard live.

Saturday 26 August, 8pm - 9pm, St John's Church
£12 (£10)



Live Music Now Scotland Presents:

Following on from our successful partnership in 2022, Just Festival is delighted to be welcoming back musicians from Live Music Now Scotland to our stage. Live Music Now Scotland gives outstanding young artists the opportunity of performing at the start of their careers. It also enables high-quality live music to reach people throughout our communities, especially those who wouldn't normally have access to it. As a nod to the violin being one of the objects which inspired our central exhibition, Pathways to Peace from Disparate Points, this series focuses on that instrument, and just some of the ways it can be heard, played and enjoyed.

The Fountaineers

The Fountaineers are an American roots and Bluegrass group based in Glasgow. Callum MT (mandolin), Jeri Foreman (fiddle), Michael Wright (guitar/vocals) and Rob Hart (banjo) are creating music that adheres to traditions, fosters creativity and blends the progressive intent found in shared musical heroes such as Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs, Tony Rice and Allison Krauss and Union Station.

Friday 11 August, 1 - 2pm, St John's Church
Free; suggested donation £7

Penny James and Matt Tighe

Penny James and Matthew Tighe are a classical and traditional violin/fiddle duo located in Glasgow. The pair studied classical music at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where in a sea of classical musicians they found each other through a mutual love of traditional Irish and Scottish music, which led to the formation of the duo in 2014.

Friday 18 August, 1 - 2pm, St John's Church
Free; suggested donation £7

Saudade Duo

The Saudade Duo is a half-Cuban, half-Italian ensemble comprised of violinist Eddy Betancourt and guitarist Jacopo Lazzaretti. They created the Saudade Duo in 2022 to explore the possibilities of the guitar and violin repertoire together, with the goal of bringing live music to as many people as possible.

Eddy Betancourt is a virtuoso violinist from Cuba, currently based in Glasgow. He graduated from the Conservatory of Vigo (Spain), the University of Aveiro (Portugal), the Conservatorium Van Amsterdam and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Jacopo Lazzaretti is a versatile guitarist from Rome, currently based in Glasgow. He graduated from the Conservatoire of Santa Cecilia in Rome in 2017 and completed the Master's Degree in Performance at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in June 2019.

Friday 25 August, 1 - 2pm, St John's Church
Free; suggested donation £7

Just Talking

This year's **Just Talking** series comprises panel discussions, readings and storytelling held between St John's Church and St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral.

Displaced Roots, Different Routes

When people, especially families with children are displaced, there is an inevitable displacement of historical and cultural memory. What are the losses and what are the gains from finding yourself in an unfamiliar landscape? And what are the ways in which one cultural identity can be celebrated while still embracing another?

This open panel conversation will be chaired by the Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh. Speakers will include Alexandr Chernyck, UK representative from the Ukrainian National Bar Association and Alistair Dinnie, Refugee and Migration Programme Manager for City of Edinburgh Council.

Friday 11 August, 6pm - 7.30pm St John's Church
Free, suggested donation £7

VOICES Network

Just Festival is delighted to be welcoming speakers from The VOICES Network. This collective of refugees and people seeking asylum speak out about issues that affect them. As people with lived experience, VOICES Ambassadors share unique insights into what it's like to seek asylum in the UK and contribute to their communities.

Tuesday 15 August, 6pm - 7.30pm, St John's Church
Free, suggested donation £7

Scenes from 'Jesus Queen of Heaven'

What would happen if Jesus did come back to earth in the present day as a trans woman? Come to St Mary's Cathedral on 17th August to find out with playwright Jo Clifford. She'll be by the High Altar for a couple of hours: sharing her stories, giving out blessings, and allowing time for reflection. On the hour and the half hour between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

Thursday 17 August, 2.30pm - 4.30pm,
St Mary's Cathedral
Free, suggested donation £7

Displaced Art in a Displaced Climate

The arts have for centuries been widely considered a powerful tool for social change. The sharing of art from different cultures, peoples and places is one of the most potent ways of uniting humans. However, in the midst of today's climate crisis, is it right for artists to tour using means of transport that require fossil fuels? What are the roles and responsibilities of the touring artist in a climate emergency?

This conversation event will be chaired by Ian Garret from the Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts. Ian will be joined by Emma Bartolomucci, choreographer, dancer, climate activist and Director of Canadian dance group Dance Fachin, and Matthew Whiteside, composer and Artistic Director of The Night With...

Thursday 17 August, 6pm - 7.30pm, St John's Church

Free; suggested donation £7

Tales from the sea

Storyteller and artist Mio Shudo returns to Just Festival with Japanese folk tales on the theme of water. Mio loves to tell stories that celebrate the wonder, mystery, wisdom and magic of the natural world in all its many colours. Her ever expanding repertoire contains many traditional Japanese Folktales, humorously conveying a Zen philosophy. Her stories inspire reflection, transformation, tranquillity, peace, respect and gratitude for all of creation.

Wednesday 23 August, 2pm - 3pm, St John's Church

Free; suggested donation £7

Displaced Objects, Displaced Ownership

Museums and galleries throughout the world display thousands of objects which help illustrate important historical events, and are a great source of learning about different people, places and times. Yet a large number of these objects were looted from their original homes, and there are many who demand they be given back. But given back to whom? Who really owns these artefacts, and whose are they to give?

Speakers include Dr George Agbo, Lecturer in the Arts of Africa at the University of Edinburgh; Dr John Giblin, Keeper, Department of Global Arts, Cultures and Design at the National Museum of Scotland and Fr John McLuckie, Rector of Old St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church and formerly Associate Rector here at St John's, where he by chance unearthed a sacred Ethiopian Tabot.

Wednesday 23 August, 6pm - 7.30pm, St John's Church

Free; suggested donation £7

Dark Water, Burning World

Renowned Syrian artist and author Issam Kourbaj gives a talk on his most recent book Dark Water, Burning World, which marks the 12th anniversary of the Syrian uprising. This publication is based on the making and journey of his artwork, Dark Water, Burning World (2016), chosen as 'Object 101' on the tenth anniversary of BBC Radio 4's The History of the World in 100 Objects.

Friday 25 August, 6pm - 7.30pm, St Mary's Cathedral

Free; suggested donation £7

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