



LIVERPOOL
HOPE
UNIVERSITY



ANGEL FIELD FESTIVAL 2026

17th - 25th April 2026

Event Programme



An Introduction from the Festival Director, Professor Stephen Davismoon



As Angel Field Festival enters its eighth year in 2026 – running from Friday 17th to Saturday 25th April 2026 inclusive – it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce you to the 2026 Angel Field Festival programme. The mission for our festival has always been to bring international arts and culture to the Everton area of Liverpool, where our Creative Campus resides. Again, we offer our neighbours a truly diverse set of events through Music, Drama, Dance and the Visual Arts.

To open our festival, we have what will be a celebratory set of Musical Theatre set pieces from two of Liverpool's finest performing talents: *Eithne Brown* and our very own *Sharon Byatt* entitled '*Tapestry*'. Next up we have the fabulous *Neil Cowley Trio* that will take us on an enchanting jazz-flavoured dialogue with the music of JS Bach. The Jazz flavours continue with *Dan Thorne* and *Stuart McCallum*, although their set will also provide the interleaving of electronic ambient strains of timeless English folk music. *The Stages of Youth* programme celebrates our fabulous relationship with the Everyman & Playhouse Theatre showcasing new and up and coming performance talent.

Phantasmagoria 3 will present work from a diverse set of award-winning artists inspired by the philosophy of Walter Benjamin. *Together We Create* will present a wonderful exhibition resulting from a collaboration between Liverpool Hope University students and the Neston Art Club, where the artists range in age from 55 to 95!

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of American Independence and to mark this we have a fabulous music double-bill concert featuring the *Loose Moose String Band* and the *Speak Easy Bootleg Band* – whose sets will provide country, folk, bluegrass on the one hand and Birdland classics on the other.

Picture This is a highly thought-provoking photographic exhibition highlighting poverty and inequality in the UK. An exciting new project from the Poverty Research and Advocacy Network. The festival continues with Musical Theatre Showcase performances; a powerful dance work from the Cathy Waller Company entitled *You and Us*. The festival close features a fantastic triple bill concert of ambient electronic music from masters of the genre: *Ian Boddy, Sulk Rooms and Field Lines Cartographer*.

Professor Stephen Davismoon

Executive Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts and Humanities and Festival Director.



ANGEL FIELD FESTIVAL 2026

Angel Field Festival Launch 2026

Guest Speaker, Kevin McManus, Head of UNESCO City of Music, Liverpool City Council

Friday 17th April 2026, 5.30pm, Capstone Foyer



Angel Field Festival guest speaker Kevin McManus, Head of UNESCO City of Music, Liverpool City Council, will officially launch Angel Field Festival 2026. Kevin will speak on *'What does it mean to be a Music City?'*. Kevin will look at how Liverpool, as a city, has come to recognise the importance of the music sector, not just in terms of its cultural offer, but in its significant economic impact. Kevin's presentation will highlight the importance of grassroots music

venues and festivals in the city's music offer and explore how the city can change the narrative so that there isn't an over-emphasis on its glorious musical heritage at the expense of the now and the ambition for the future.

Kevin McManus is Head of UNESCO City of Music at Liverpool City Council. Prior to this he was the Curator at the British Music Experience in Liverpool, the UK's only national museum of rock and pop music. Kevin has been involved in music since he began writing for influential music paper New Musical Express (NME) when he was 18. As well as writing for NME, his music journalism career also included writing for The Face, ID, and Mixmag. He went on to work for The University of Liverpool where he wrote a number of books about Liverpool music history and the social and economic context in which it was made. In his subsequent public sector career, Kevin developed the pioneering creative industries sector development agency for Liverpool, Merseyside ACME, which he led for almost 20 years. Kevin's achievements during this period included setting up the Baltic Creative CIC and establishing the music festival and industry conference Liverpool Sound City.

Performances and Events

The following performances and events will take place during the Festival at Liverpool Hope University's Creative Campus. You can find out more and purchase tickets at: <https://capstone.hope.ac.uk/angelfieldfestival/>



Tapestry

Friday 17th April 2026, 7pm The Capstone Theatre

Admission: £16.50

To open Angel Field Festival 2026, Eithne Browne and Sharon Byatt reunite following their critically acclaimed collaboration on *Musical of Musicals... The Musical!* for an evening of song and storytelling. Eithne was most recently seen as Friar in Liverpool Everyman's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, whilst Sharon appeared as Tracey Reilly in the award-winning film *Our Kid*. Enjoy an evening of blues, jazz, folk, and musical theatre, performed by two of Liverpool's finest talents.

Revolving Grooves: Vinyl Culture Symposium

Saturday 18th April 2026, 11am, The Cornerstone Theatre (COR 001)

Admission: Free Admission (pre-registration required)

This event is presented by Liverpool Hope University's Angel Field Festival and kindly sponsored by Dancecult Research Network, Society for Music Production Research, Decks in the City, Svava Radio and Equity Hi-Fi.

Taking place on Record Store Day, this event is a one-day symposium exploring the cultural and material life of vinyl records. The event also includes an evening after-event with performances.

Vinyl culture is currently experiencing a moment of heightened public visibility. Rather than approaching the day as celebration alone, this event creates space for discussion around the place of physical music formats within a landscape shaped by streaming platforms and digital technologies. Bringing together DJs, record shop owners, collectors, sound system operators and researchers from across Liverpool, *Revolving Grooves* foregrounds practitioner experience alongside academic reflection, situating local perspectives within wider questions of performance, circulation and materiality. Through presentations, roundtable conversations and performances, the symposium explores vinyl as performance medium, cultural infrastructure and living archive.

Symposium Schedule (11am - 5pm)

Contributors: Bryan Biggs (Bluecoat), Kerri Ankrah-Lucas (Decks in the City), Max Ansell (Equity Hi-Fi), Jess Fairclough (Dead Air Records), Nina Kehagia (shesaid.so/University of Liverpool), Jacques Malchance (Upitup Records), Manoli Moriaty (Liverpool Hope University), Veronica Skrimsjö (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts), Tom Wilson (Arts Bar) and James Young (Svava Radio)

Evening Performances (9pm - 11pm)

Andrew Leslie Hooker, Equity Hi-Fi, Jacques Malchance



Built on Bach - The Neil Cowley Trio

Saturday 18th April 2026, 7.30pm, The Capstone Theatre

Admission: £22

Built on Bach is a new live show from the Neil Cowley Trio, exploring the subtle but powerful influence of Johann Sebastian Bach on Cowley's original music. Rather than reworking or reinterpreting Bach's compositions or Inventions, the trio use them as a creative jumping-off point - improvising, extemporising, and freely exploring wherever the music leads - revealing Bach's presence within their own distinctive, unmistakable sound.

Renowned for his dry humour and engaging presence, Cowley peppers the show with stories and anecdotes on his relationship with Bach revealing the composer's impact on both his music and his life. *Built on Bach* sees the Neil Cowley Trio replace their trademark bombast and thrilling crescendos for a lighter touch and more reverential tone. Still, the performance remains dynamic and heartfelt brimming with energy and emotional depth, true to their signature style.

The Neil Cowley Trio bring their trademark approach to a fresh body of work shaped by pianist-composer Cowley's relationship with the Baroque master. Joining him for the show are his long-time collaborators, Evan Jenkins (drums) and Rex Horan (bass).



Daniel Thorne and Stuart McCallum

Sunday 19th April 2026, 7.30pm, The Capstone Theatre

Admission: £16.50

Angel Field Festival 2026 presents the debut performance from a new project featuring two unique voices in the North West's musical landscape; guitarist Stuart McCallum (The Breath, Cinematic Orchestra) and saxophonist Daniel Thorne (Immix Ensemble).

Having previously collaborated in an ensemble setting, this is their first time performing together as a duo. Expect a mix of brand-new music for this format, alongside reworkings of their respective solo material as the two explore their shared love for music that blurs and blends jazz, folk, ambient and classical elements.

Stuart McCallum is a genre-defying guitarist, composer, and producer whose music weaves together jazz, folk, ambient, and electronic textures. His solo performances of original material, alongside arrangements of old English folk songs, jazz standards and classical works are defined by spacious harmonic voicings, expressive use of reverb and delay, and melodic and virtuosic improvisation.

Daniel Thorne is a composer and saxophonist fascinated by the infinite shades of possibility that exist between the notions of acoustic and electronic, and composition and improvisation. Avant-garde, jazz, electronics, classical and noise come together, each occupying their own space while acquiescing with the whole.



Stages of Youth 2026

Monday 20th April 2026, 7.30pm, The Capstone Theatre

Admission: Free Admission

Stages of Youth is a vibrant celebration of emerging talent, uniting young performers from across Liverpool for an unforgettable evening of theatre.

The Liverpool Hope Drama Society takes to the stage with a dynamic acting showcase featuring a hand-picked collection of short scenes, duologues and monologues from published plays and films – each piece chosen by the actors themselves and brought to life under the direction of fellow society members.

Young Everyman Playhouse (YEP) presents a series of duologues and monologues written by last year's YEP Writers which debuted at the YEP Writers Showcase in October 2025. These exciting pieces of new work will be reimaged and directed by their Class of 2026 YEP Directors, and performed by YEP Actors 18-25.





(contemporary) phantasmagoria 3: Paint-Thing

Tuesday 21st April 2026,
4.30pm, The Grace
Room (COR 114) and
Cornerstone Gallery

Admission: Free
Admission

This exhibition takes place in the Cornerstone Gallery, Liverpool Hope University Creative Campus, 17 Shaw Street, Liverpool L6 1HP and runs from 28th March - 12th May 2026 inclusive. The Artist Talk will take place in The Grace Room on Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 4.30pm, followed by a Private View in the Cornerstone Gallery from 5.30pm - 7pm.

Drawing on Walter Benjamin's term 'phantasmagoria' which he used to describe the reified world of objects and images – abject or opulent – that populated the streets of modern cities in the 19th and 20th centuries, this third iteration of the phantasmagoria project looks to enlarge the scope of Benjamin's definition, the better to take the measure of our fragmentary, collagic, screen-mediated contemporary reality.

Benjamin is best known for his kaleidoscopic approach to writing. Turning it to philosophy, history, sociology, art criticism and journalism, he made an audacious and highly influential attempt to find new ways to chart the impact of capitalism on the psychic life of the West and its cultures in the first half of the 20th century.

In the spirit of Benjamin's multi-disciplinary writings, the selected artists, under the rubric of 'Paint-Thing', focus on the contemporary clashing and commingling of both picture plane and sculptural object. Since the 1960s, the discreet disciplines of painting and sculpture have courted and contradicted, seduced and denied each other. The artists in Paint-Thing re-engage with this tryst between two and three dimensions, rendering it, as Benjamin might, as a site of complex disruptions, antagonisms and mutations informed by disparate ideas from the history of art and the (de)materiality of the life we are living now.

The Artists: Phillip Allen, Olivia Bax, John Bunker, Jane Clarke, Karen David, Matt Dennis, Neil Gall, Deborah Gardner, John Gibbons, Alexis Harding, Simon Hiscock, Emma Lilly, Angela Lucas, Jane Millar, Ken Turner and Haysom Smith.



Together We Create (Private View)

Tuesday 21st April
2026, 5.30pm,
Cornerstone Foyer
(Ground Floor)

Admission: Free
Admission

This exhibition runs for the entirety of the Angel Field Festival (17th - 25th April 2026), with the official opening on Tuesday 21st April at 5.30pm. The exhibition will take place in cabinets in the foyer of the Cornerstone Building [Liverpool Hope University Creative Campus, 17 Shaw Street, Liverpool L6 1HP] and the private view is shared as part of the same event with the private view of *(contemporary) phantasmagoria 3: Paint-Thing* taking place in the Cornerstone Gallery (at the upper level of the Cornerstone Foyer) that evening.

Together We Create is an exhibition by Neston Art Club to celebrate the work created in collaboration with students from Liverpool Hope University. Neston Art Club was founded in 2023 by Fine Art Student Sophie Thomas in partnership with Neston Community & Youth Centre.

The aim of the group is to build connections through creativity for older people with the age range of participants being 55-95. Having sourced funding for materials from the university, Sophie was able to offer the opportunity to run a workshop out to other Fine Art Students. The group welcomed 18 students to the community centre and explored a wide range of mediums from ceramics, painting, charcoal drawings and more. The initiative has been a huge success, and this exhibition is a way to showcase the work and celebrate the collaboration between the students and the members of the art club.



The Loose Moose String Band & The Speakeasy Bootleg Band: A Double Bill Concert

Tuesday 21st April
2026, 7.30pm, The
Capstone Theatre

Admission: £16.50

Angel Field Festival 2026 commemorates 250 years of American Independence with an American-themed double bill concert featuring two esteemed Liverpool bands, The Loose Moose String Band and The Speakeasy Bootleg Band.

The Loose Moose String Band are veterans of the Liverpool music scene. Their enormous repertoire includes familiar country hits, obscure folk, bluegrass & cajun nuggets, rockabilly, honky tonk, Western swing and a huge list of 80s & 90s pop bangers reimagined as acoustic folk classics. Far too many weekends have passed since the band's inception for any of them to be able to accurately remember how long they have been playing together for, but evidence suggests they started over 15 years ago. Audiences across the country have loved their dynamic playing and the warm atmosphere they bring to gigs. You can tell they love playing together - and you'll love hearing them too.

The Speakeasy Bootleg Band (SBB) are purveyors of *"the finest quality bootleg music since records began.... distilled & bottled in New York and Chicago"*, but consumed wherever finer things are appreciated. SBB play a heady mix of jazz, jive and Harlem swing, the vintage sounds of the Cotton Club and Birdland, the illegal drinking haunts of prohibition Chicago and countless rent parties, driving bass, explosive drums and sophisticated witty vocals. This is the music of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Louis Jordan, Cab Calloway, Fats Waller, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, and Art Blakey, the music which drove Tin Pan Alley and created the Great American Songbook.





Picture This: A Visual Perspective on Poverty and Inequality in the UK

Wednesday 22nd April 2026, 5pm,
The Grace Room

Admission: Admission Free

This photographic exhibition will take place in the Grace Room (COR 114) [Cornerstone Building, Liverpool Hope University Creative Campus, 17 Shaw Street, Liverpool L6 1HP] on Wednesday 22nd April at 5pm, followed

by a talk at 5.30pm. Following the Private View event the exhibition will continue to be displayed in the Cornerstone Foyer.

Picture This: A Visual Perspective on Poverty and Inequality in the UK is an exciting new project from the Poverty Research and Advocacy Network (PRAN). Building on insights gathered through PRAN's podcasts, workshops, research and community engagement, this initiative transforms complex findings on poverty and inequality into powerful, visually engaging illustrations.

At the launch, attendees will get an exclusive first look at the project's infographics and visual tools, developed in collaboration with Becky Bryson, a talented artist from Merseyside, and shaped by current policy debates. Discover how visual storytelling can spark conversation, deepen understanding, and strengthen advocacy for systemic change.

Liverpool Hope University Musical Theatre Summer Showcase



Wednesday 22nd April 2026, 5pm and
7pm shows, The Capstone Theatre

Admission: Free Admission

Liverpool Hope University students from all three years will present a selection of musical theatre numbers, highlighting work developed during their studies this year whilst saying goodbye to our current third-year cohort.



Cathy Waller Company: You and Us

Friday 24th April 2026, 7.30pm, The
Capstone Theatre

Admission: £22, £16.50 concessions

You and Us offers a powerful reflection on invisibility, revealing stories that are usually kept out of sight and placing them centre stage. What began

with Cathy's personal experience of invisible disability, grew into a collaboration with hundreds of people, unravelling stories that touch on identity and culture, challenging the unwritten rules of belonging. What does invisibility mean to you? How do we really see ourselves and those around us?

You and Us asks why we hide parts of ourselves to fit in, and what it might mean to be fully seen. At its centre is an emotionally charged dance performance that channels extraordinary physical power, against an original, pulsing soundtrack created by MOBO award-winning Lewis Wright. Developed alongside the company's award-winning short dance film, the result is a poetic, exhilarating combination, holding up a mirror to how we move through the world.

Founded in 2012 by award-winning Choreographer and Movement Director Cathy Waller, the company is recognised for its physically powerful, musically rich performances. Cathy's artistry is in demand across the UK and internationally, where she collaborates with renowned theatres and companies. *You and Us* continues her vision, bringing movement, sound and imagery together to challenge perception and celebrate connection.

*"Forceful, thrilling, stunning, consistently sensitive and thoughtful performance" - **** Daily Telegraph*

*"The most serious-minded work, in a thoughtful, clever blend of movement and text" - **** The Times*

"Cathy Waller has established herself as one of the most exciting choreographers to watch out for." - British Council.



Electronic Music Triple Bill: Ian Boddy / Sulk Rooms / Field Lines Cartographer

Saturday 25th April 2026, 7pm, The Capstone Theatre

Admission: £16.50

This event is sponsored by DiN Records.



DiN Records presents three of the leading lights of the UK electronic music scene in concert together. They will all perform solo sets followed by a unique, three-way jam.

The music of Field Lines Cartographer weaves celestial tapestries from modular synths with whispers of the natural world. His work drifts between deep space and ancient earth, mapping dream states and hidden energies in sound.

Sulk Rooms draws the link between euphoric electronica and smoke-engulfed drones. Slow-morphing textures sequence and cascade, encapsulating intimate moments of colliding sound amongst fluttering arpeggios and transcending synth builds.

Ian Boddy has been producing his own style of exploratory electronic music for over 45 years. A master of the modular synth, he paints pictures in sound and takes the audience on a sonic journey from familiar territory to places unknown.



Exhibition: Song For My Father: The Jazz Photography of William Ellis

Thursday 26th February - Sunday 26th April 2026, Capstone Foyer

Admission: Free Admission

This exhibition runs until Sunday 26th April 2026 and takes place in the Foyer of the Capstone Building.

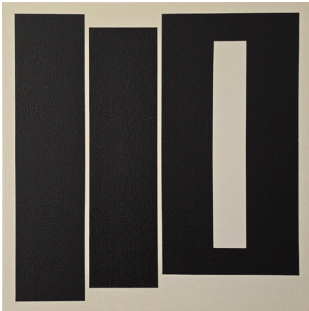
Jazz is an art form rooted in improvisation and spontaneity - photography shares this instantaneous nature of creation in capturing for us an in-the-moment impression which provides a visual context that enriches our understanding and appreciation of the music's cultural and social environment.

Images of musicians onstage or in rehearsal spaces, even in their own homes as you will see in this exhibition, reveal details about performance practices, instrumentation, fashion and interpersonal dynamics.

William Ellis (b. Liverpool 1957) is self-taught. His work has appeared in *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *New Statesman* and on the BBC, magazines and record covers. He is a co-author of the forthcoming book *Rethinking Miles Davis* published by Oxford University Press. His photographs have been exhibited in the United States, Canada, Cuba, South Africa, Europe, China and the Far East. They are in numerous private collections and those of National Portrait Gallery, London, the Archive of Contemporary Music, New York, The American Jazz Museum, Kansas City MO, and on display at Birdland, New York. His reggae project One

Love, produced in his role as Visiting Research Fellow in Photographing Popular Music Culture at Birmingham City University is in the archives of the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica.

Musicians featured in this exhibition include Clark Terry, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Dizzy Gillespie, Emmet Cohen, Herbie Hancock, Horace Silver, Lenny White, Marcus Miller, McCoy Tyner, Miles Davis, Nancy Wilson, Pat Metheny, Ravi Coltrane, Ron Carter and Tony Bennett.



Exhibition: Bob Whittaker - 'IMAGINE'

**Monday 30th March - Sunday 26th April
2026, Capstone Foyer**

Admission: Free Admission

*This exhibition of work takes place in the
Capstone Foyer from Monday 30th March -
Sunday 26th April 2026.*

Liverpool minimalist artist Bob Whittaker's work explores painting as a form of musical structure, translating rhythm, repetition, and silence into visual space. His compositions function like scores - intervals and forms unfolding over time through a system he calls STEMS, his language of geometric units.

For this exhibition, Whittaker presents two new works derived from Imagine by John Lennon (NO HELL BELOW US and ABOVE US, ONLY SKY). Each piece is precisely transcribed into visual form from melodic musical fragments.

These sequences act as compositional frameworks, guiding pacing, density, and spatial rhythm. Whittaker invites the viewer to read and "hear" the work simultaneously - where image becomes score, and looking becomes listening.

How to find us

Creative Campus

The Creative Campus is less than a mile away from Liverpool's main railway station, Liverpool Lime Street. Situated at the junction of Islington and Shaw Street, the campus is within walking distance of the station or a short bus ride from Queen Square Bus Station.

Address for Sat Nav: Shaw Street, L6 1HP.



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| Arts Centre | 1 |
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| Cornerstone Building | 4 |
| Gerard Manley Hopkins Hall of Residence | 5 |
| No.3 Islington Square | 6 |
| Security Lodge | 7 |

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Café 1846 and Catering | |
| Campus Libraries | |
| Capstone Theatre | |
| Launderette | |
| Reading Room | |
| The Great Hall | |

How to book tickets

Tickets for all festival events are available at TicketQuarter accessed via our website using the QR code below:



Liverpool Hope University students and staff can book two free tickets per event (subject to availability) by inputting the code AFF26 when booking at the TicketQuarter website. Hope students and staff should ensure they present their Hope ID cards at each event.

For venue information and for links to purchase tickets please visit <https://capstone.hope.ac.uk/angelfieldfestival/>





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FIND OUT MORE AND BOOK TICKETS:

<https://capstone.hope.ac.uk/angelfieldfestival/>

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