

NN Contemporary Art and Musarc present:



NORTHAMPTON COMPLAINTS CHOIR (OPEN SONG)

Join choral collective Musarc for **three weekends** of singing, **cooking, walking, drawing** and **writing** to make a songbook/manifesto for Northampton. **Free** and **open to everyone**
Northampton Central Library Carnegie Hall April—July 2023

Northampton Complaints Choir (Open Song) is a temporary choral collective that emerges from a series of workshops and social events over the space of three weekends in **April—July 2023**.

The project is part of **Sensing Place**, an initiative by **NN Contemporary Art** that asks: what does it take to create more just and equal environments? How can we collaboratively inhabit places and foster a sense of belonging in our communities? How do we make a town, and how does it make us?

To explore these questions, **we are bringing people together to make a choir** that sings and moves and makes a manifesto, or songbook for Northampton — to explore any other questions the choir may have, make and sing the songs it wants to sing, **be curious**, and **loud**, and **open-minded** about the answers we discover.

The choir, which will be led and brought to life with the help of experimental choral collective **Musarc**, is **free to join** and **open to everyone**. It offers an opportunity to **meet** new people, **explore the town** and **make a wish** for it, write **poetry**, **cook** and eat together, **sing** and take part in collective **music making** and **performance**.

To find out more about the choir and how to sign up, visit bit.ly/NNChoir or contact simon@northamptonarts.org



22–23 April 20–21 May 1–2 July

Northampton Central Library
Carnegie Hall
Abington Street
Northampton NN1 2BA

Workshops run on Saturdays from 10.00 to 5pm,
and on Sundays from 11.00–3pm.

You can join all or some weekend workshops.
No previous singing experience needed.
Bring an instrument if you play, or your
friends if you are in a band or choir.

Musarc is one of the UK's foremost experimental choral assemblies. It was founded in 2008 at what is today the School of Art, Architecture and Design, London Metropolitan University. The choir has distinct reputation for its interdisciplinary and research-led approach to music and performance, and the space it affords artists and singers to experiment with new ideas. Since its inception, the choir has collaborated with more than one hundred artists and composers, including Jennifer Walshe, Lin Chiwei, Laure Provost, Ed Atkins, Jenny Moore, Lina Lapelyte, Sam Belinfante, Fritz Hauser, Neil Luck and many others; and numerous festivals and arts organisations in the UK and abroad – including the BBC Proms, London Contemporary Music Festival, Post Disaster Rooftops EP03 (Taranto, Italy), Palais de Tokyo (Paris), the Royal Academy, CCA Goldsmiths, Extra City (Antwerp), Serpentine Gallery, MK Gallery, Wysing Polyphonic, STUK (Leuven) Cafe OTO, and Whitechapel Gallery.

This project has been commissioned as part of **NN Contemporary Art's Sensing Place**, a public programme which explores critical and creative approaches to the public realm and placemaking. As we are creating a new phase of NN Contemporary Art at 24 Guildhall Road, we are looking closely at the policies and processes involved in designing public space and exploring their challenges and outputs. As an organisation, we are actively involved in Northampton's town regeneration strategies and we want to explore themes such as agency, infrastructure and sustainability across the creative collaborations that merge art, culture, and community-led placemaking. Sensing Place is funded by Arts Council England and West Northamptonshire Borough Council.



Image: Musarc carrying colours and planting trees in Taranto, Italy, May 2022. From Sara Rodrigues's *Invocations*. Photo: Aga Beaupré.
Cover photos by Lakruwan Rajapaksha and Chryssa Panoussiadou

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Sensing Place is supported by



Supported using public funding by
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