

COLLABORATION

Brimfield worked in collaboration with composer Gwyneth Herbert to devise the central choral composition, integrating a participatory, non-hierarchical approach to devising with neurodiverse patients, carers, healthcare professionals and researchers. Songwriting workshops explored aspects of mental illness such as isolation and connection, loneliness and community, anxiety and healing, and the loss, finding and sharing of voice. Common to many shared stories was an exhausting repetitive experience of collapse, slow recovery and relapse without appropriate community support; as a central principle, the harmonic sequences and melodies are structured to assume a looping, cyclical form in response, uniting initially tentative individual voices in the circle to slowly build to a euphoric choral swell before repeatedly fragmenting to dissonance.

Right- Gwyn Herbert leads a workshop with Harrow-based More Than Just a Choir members.

Below - various Men's Shed and Men's Shed Cymru collaborators

Bottom right - Artist's edition: Unity is Power enamel badge



STAND is a call to arms, championing the practical and potential cultural value of innovative models of occupational therapy at a time of austerity funding cuts in both the NHS and the arts. The project explores a series of artist-led strategies that enable more meaningful representation of neurodiversity in both high level arts programming and amongst the audiences for it.

