**BAFA Conference for Festivals 2023 – Festivals Unite: Navigating the Future**

**Aviva Studios, Manchester, 23 – 24 November: Programme**

Thursday 23 November

1pm Registration

1.30pm Welcome

1.45pm Creative provocation: Michael Betteridge

2pm Workshop: *Building more sustainable festivals*

Helen Harland, Manchester City Council and Ottilia Ördög, Gobefest

Chair – Erica Smith

3pm – 3.45pm Coffee over breakouts – *Staying afloat*

3.45pm – 4pm Provocation: Marieke Navin, Cheltenham Festivals;

*The AI future – challenges and opportunities for festivals*

4pm – 5pm Panel: *Festivals create communities*

* Michael Betteridge, composer/conductor, The Sunday Boys
* Naomi Taylor, Birmingham City University
* Peter Howarth, Queen Mary University of London

Chair – Nick Gebhardt

7.30pm Dinner – Côte, Manchester (M3 2LB) or *Our National Health Stories Live, Aviva Studios [free performance:*[*tickets & info*](https://factoryinternational.org/whats-on/our-national-health-stories-live/)*]*

Friday 24 November

9am Registration

9.30am Gert Naessens *Update from the* *European Festivals Association*

9.45am Provocation: Tamar Brüggemann *Quality?*

10am Panel: *Everyone’s talking about data*

* David Brownlee, Data Culture Change
* Jamie Snelgrove, Society of London Theatre
* Jonathan Todd, BOP Consulting

Chair – Alexis Paterson

11.10am Coffee

11.40am Creative provocation: Sheila Hayman, filmmaker: *Fanny:* *The Other Mendelssohn*

11.55am Panel: *Re-mapping music*

* Suzanne Griffiths-Rees, Arts Council of Wales
* Mica Sefia, Black Lives in Music

Chair – Simon Mundy

1pm Lunch and optional tour of Aviva Studios (60 minutes)

2pm Cllr Luthfur Rahman, Manchester City Council *Festivals make Manchester*

2.15pm Roundtables: Sustainability; New approaches to capturing audience data; Lobbying; Festival teams; Friends; Audiences/ticketing; Staying afloat feedback

3.15pm Coffee

3.45pm Panel: *Shaping the future together*

* Andrew Lansley, Cheltenham Festivals
* Tamar Brüggemann, Wonderfeel/European Festivals Forest
* Feimatta Conteh, Manchester International Festival

Chair – Jane Ali-Knight

5pm Close

*Please note that the programme and speakers remain subject to change*