

#DOUGLASS WEEK 2021

"I CAN TRULY SAY
I HAVE SPENT SOME OF
THE HAPPIEST MOMENTS
OF MY LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY. I SEEM TO HAVE
UNDERGONE A **TRANSFORMATION.**

I LIVE A NEW LIFE."

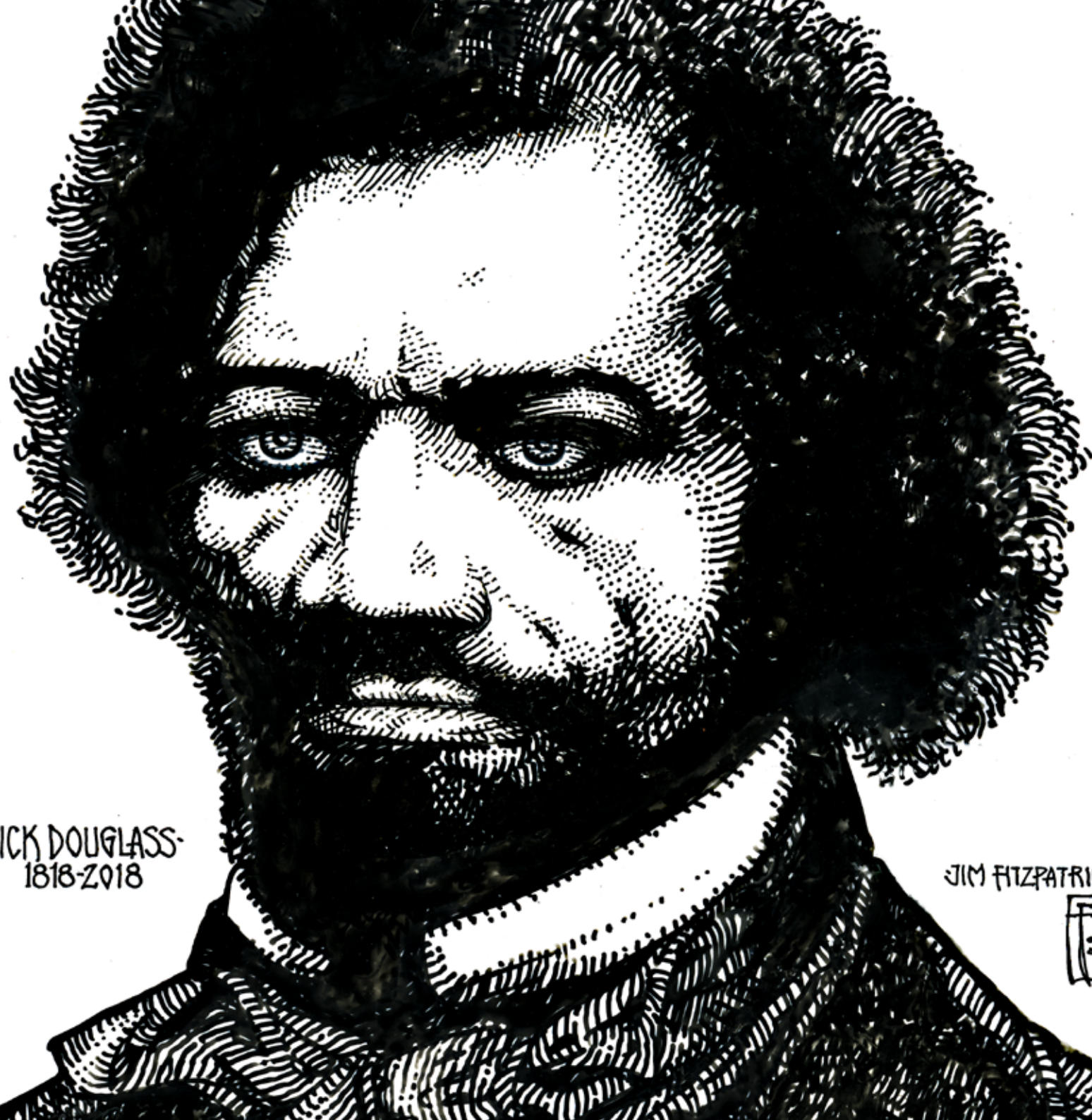
- Frederick Douglass, 1846,
letter to William Lloyd Garrison on the day he left Ireland

PROGRAMME

www.douglassinork.com • info@douglassinork.com

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/douglassinork) @douglassinork [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/douglasweek) @douglasweek

All events are free and you can sign up via our website and through Eventbrite.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS
1818-2018

JIM FITZPATRICK:



WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome you to **#DouglassWeek 2021**, an ambitious and wide-ranging celebration of the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass's visit to Ireland!

In late 1845, shortly after the publication of the bestselling *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, its author began a tour of Ireland and Great Britain. For several months, Douglass, a formerly enslaved man who had escaped from bondage in Maryland to become a leader of the movement to end slavery in the United States, travelled through the country. Douglass lectured to packed audiences in Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Belfast, met with Daniel O'Connell (a major inspiration in his fight against injustice), and reflected upon the devastating effects of the famine then beginning to sweep the nation.

To commemorate Douglass's visit, students and researchers, visual artists, educators, musicians, historians, poets, authors, singers and community groups from Ireland and beyond have responded to Douglass's story with performances, visual art, music and more. Our programme strives to highlight Douglass's story and to emphasise the continued importance of remembering slavery and the intertwined struggle for independence and liberation in Ireland and the U.S. and as to develop a more nuanced and complex understanding of Ireland as we know it today.

Originally planned as an in-person event to take place in 2020 (the 175th anniversary of Douglass's arrival in Ireland), #DouglassWeek has expanded to explore the range of connection and collaboration afforded by virtual platforms and events. The events outlined below showcase weeks and months of planning and ideas to commemorate Douglass in a passionate, creative and thoughtful way, encompassing the efforts of academics, artists, writers, musicians, educators, community leaders and social activists.

The #DouglassWeek event series consist of six different strands: the **Historical Strand**, the **Literary Strand**, the **Educational Strand**, the **Music Strand**, the **Creative Strand** and the **Sports Strand**. All strands consist of a series of talks and "in conversation" events as well as other projects and initiatives from cities where Douglass spoke along with contributions from the United Kingdom and the United States. Some strands will also include interactive workshops open to the public. All events are online unless otherwise stated and free of charge.

We hope that you enjoy this extensive and diverse programme, and we invite you to explore Douglass's journey across the island by participating in these unique "Creative Commemorations" from Douglass enthusiasts around the world.



OVERVIEW OF STRANDS

The **Historical Strand** highlights the wide variety of initiatives that focus on commemorating and expanding our understanding of Douglass and his time in Ireland. From the second Douglass/O'Connell Address, to academic talks, to city tours, to exhibitions, to gifts of "living memorial" trees, to a Frederick Douglass symposium, the historical strand gives space and opportunity to explore the history of Frederick Douglass in Ireland.

The **Literary Strand** commemorates the importance of writing in Douglass's life as well as the genres and forms in which he expressed his thoughts. Douglass was, according to biographer David Blight, a "man of words," and his speeches and self-representation on the page were the key to his enduring global influence. This strand will consider Douglass through inspiration, representation and commemoration. The events of this strand engage deeply with literature and narratives, but also with the process and intricate workings of writing and self-expression through the written word.

The **Educational Strand** aims to make Frederick Douglass's story accessible to Irish students and the general public. The strand aligns with Douglass's commitment to equality, education and social justice, and offers parallels from the 19th-century abolitionist movement to the present day. The events of this strand are guided by Douglass's words: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." From anti-racism workshops to academic talks to the development of an Ireland-focused educational curriculum, this strand connects the past and the present by sharing knowledge, expertise and educational resources.

The **Creative Strand** places a special focus on visual and fine art. From film roundtables to individual performances and artwork creation, the initiatives of the creative strand include newly commissioned art inspired by Douglass and a showcase of outstanding work created and performed by a variety of artists in Ireland and abroad. This strand will consist of a series of artistic, visual arts, audio and audio-visual performances, "in conversation" events, and creative workshops.

The **Music Strand** explores the significance of music to Douglass's life and presents new musical projects inspired by his time in Ireland. This strand also sheds light on one of Douglass's lesser-known achievements, connects Ireland to America through music, and offers new and accessible ways to communicate and commemorate Douglass's message to twenty-first century audiences. While he was in Dublin, Douglass recalls entering a music store and asking to look at a violin; the proprietor handed him one with "seeming reluctance," but was subsequently amazed at Douglass's talent as he played songs including "Rocky Road to Dublin" and "The Irish Washerwoman."

The **Sports Strand** connects Douglass's legacy of activism with the work towards integration and equality taking place through sports in communities all around Ireland. This connection takes place in partnership with the Football Association of Ireland, Unite the Union and Cobh Ramblers Football Club in Cork, using the anniversary of Douglass's visit as a focal point for a celebration of shared values. Participants will work in collaboration with the FAI's Intercultural Football Programme, which aims to challenge racism within the game and increase the participation of people from diverse backgrounds in football (soccer).

OVERVIEW: #DOUGLASSWEEK

HISTORICAL STRAND

Main Events

Monday, 8th, 3-6.30pm (GMT):

Frederick Douglass, Abolitionism, Ireland and the Irish: Hosted by Dr. Adrian Mulligan (Bucknell University), focusing on Frederick Douglass, abolitionism and a variety of related themes. Speakers include Dr. Alasdair Pettinger, Dr. Peter O'Neill, Dr. Bill Rolston, Dr. Paul Giles, Dr. Patricia Ferreira, Dr. James S. Finley, Dr. Leigh Fought, Dr. Nilgun Anadolu-Okur and Dr. Jack Kaufman-McKivigan

Monday, 8th, 7pm-8pm (GMT):

The Iveagh House Lecture: The Frederick Douglass/ Daniel O'Connell Address: Address by Bryan Stevenson (Equal Justice Initiative) followed by a panel conversation including Kenneth B. Morris Jr. (Frederick Douglass Ireland Project/Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives), Niall Burgess (Secretary General, DFA), Mark Durkan (John & Pat Hume Foundation) and a tribute to the late U.S. Congressman John Lewis

Tuesday, 9th, 3pm (GMT):

Curating Activism: Panel discussion on community engagement, cultural memory, commemoration and communicating complicated histories with Museum of Literature Ireland director Simon O'Connor, the Head of Curatorial for National Museums NI and member of the Ethics committee of the UK Museums Association, Hannah Crowdy, and Programme Manager of Nano Nagle Place, Cork, Danielle O'Donovan: Includes the announcement of the opening of the Museum of Literature Ireland "Frederick Douglass" exhibition in Cork

Tuesday, 9th, 4pm (GMT):

Douglass and the British Isles: Talk by Dr. Hannah-Rose Murray who will explore Douglass's experience in the British Isles as a whole, including his little known 1859 trip to the UK. This event will also include a 'virtual tour' where Dr. Murray introduces certain places significant to Douglass such as Dublin, Cork, Newcastle, Edinburgh and London, hosted by Kristin Leary (Frederick Douglass Ireland Project/ Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives)

Tuesday, 9th, 5pm (GMT):

Black Abolitionists in Cork: Presentation and discussion with Prof. Christine Kinealy (Quinnipiac University), hosted by Dr. Adrian Mulligan (Bucknell University)

Thursday, 11th, 5pm (GMT):

Slavery, Abolition and Empire: Ireland and Cuba: Panel including Dr. Margaret Brehony, Dr. Kerby Miller, Dr. Gera Burton and Giselle García González; hosted by Dr. Nuala Finnegan (University College Cork)

Friday, 12th, 6pm (GMT):

A Transatlantic Antiracist Lineage: Race and Rebellion in the Lives of Thomas Addis Emmet and Nancy Cunard: Roundtable with Dr. Muiris MacGiollaibhuí and Dr. Anne Donlon, hosted by Dr. Maurice Casey (EPIC Museum)

Friday, 12th, 4pm (GMT):

The African American Irish Diaspora Network (AAIDN): Roundtable discussion with members of the network, highlighting their work and initiatives

Friday, 12th, 5pm (GMT):

Douglass Day Transcribathon: Virtual event using the "By The People" platform at the Library of Congress. We will transcribe the papers of Mary Church Terrell, a foundational Black activist, educator, thinker and writer who helped to create Douglass Day in 1895. She also helped found the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), hosted by Dr. Orla Murphy (University College Cork)

Sunday, 14th, 2pm (GMT):

Contextualizing Douglass's Ireland - The world in 1845-1847: A talk and presentation about the world in 1845-1847, offering insight into relevant historical and cultural context in France, Germany, Russia, Vietnam, Australia, Mexico, Russia, the Ottoman Empire, the Arctic, Liberia and Ireland and the USA with Turtle Bunbury, hosted by Robert Manson (Harvard Alumni Club Ireland)

Sunday, 14th, 8pm (GMT):

Our Strong Women: Closing Event: Panel discussing the role of the strong women of Ireland, feminism, intersectionality and related topics, including speakers Mary Robinson (former President of Ireland), Nettie Washington Douglass (Frederick Douglass Ireland Project/Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives), Lord Mayor of Dublin Hazel Chu, Dr. Ebum Joseph (University College Dublin) and Emma Dabiri (SOAS University of London)

Initiatives

Pre-recorded video messages from educators, politicians and family members, including the Lord Mayor of Cork Joe Kavanagh, UCC Interim

President Prof. John Halloran, the Lord Mayor of Dublin Hazel Chu, members of the Douglass family, representatives from Georgetown University and many others

On our website: Pre-recorded Virtual Cork City Walking Tour with Dr. Laurence Fenton and Dr. Adrian Mulligan (Bucknell University)

OVERVIEW: #DOUGLASSWEEK

LITERARY STRAND

Main Events

Tuesday, 9th, 5-7pm (GMT):

Empathy Workshop with Narrative4: This story exchange workshop (for up to 20 people), led by Narrative4 facilitators in Limerick, will explore the power of storytelling to foster empathy and connection

Thursday, 11th, 6-7pm (GMT):

University College Cork Americanist Reading Group Virtual Session on Douglass's *Narrative*: Hosted by Sarah McCreedy and Dr. Caroline Dunham-Schroeter

Thursday, 11th, 6.30pm (GMT):

Creative Writing Workshop with Writer and Poet David Mills: Based around Douglass's 1852 Speech 'What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?' (no familiarity with Douglass's work required)

Thursday, 11th, 8.30pm-10pm (GMT):

Douglass's Genres: Panel discussion highlighting Douglass's enormous contribution across several literary genres – autobiography, oratory, letter writing and more; featuring Prof. Christine Kinealy (Quinnipiac University), Dr. Robert Levine (University of Maryland), Dr. Leslie Elizabeth Eckel (Suffolk University) and Dr. Marjorie Stone (Dalhousie University) and Dr. Fionnghuala Sweeney (Newcastle University), hosted by Prof. Lee Jenkins (University College Cork)

Friday, 12th, 3pm (GMT):

'Céad Míle Fáilte to the Stranger': Poems Celebrating Frederick Douglass's 1845-7 Tour of Britain and Ireland: Talk by Dr. Laurence Fenton

Friday, 12th, 8pm (GMT):

Poetry Evening: Frederick Douglass: Past, Present and Future: Poetry readings featuring a selection of Irish and U.S. poets reading work about and inspired by Douglass, hosted by Dr. Catherine Gander (Maynooth University). This event will include the **announcement of the winning poem in our #DouglassWeek Poetry Competition**, which will then be read live by renowned actor Roger Guenveur Smith

Saturday, 13th, 8pm (GMT):

Imagining Douglass: Authors Colum McCann and Jewell Parker Rhodes read from and discuss their novels *Transatlantic* (2013) and *Douglass's Women* (2002), hosted by Dr. Chanté Mouton Kinyon (University of Notre Dame)

On our website: Frederick Douglass's Speeches, pre-recorded readings of Douglass's speeches in Cork, Limerick and Dublin, performed by Paul Oakley Stovall, Eon Grey and others

On our website: Future Publication of a Special Issue of *Disrupt Magazine* on the theme of Douglass's visit, drawing on work produced and commissioned during #DouglassWeek

On our website: Hosted blog featuring guest contributions from participants including students involved in the Unsilencing Black Voices events and others

OVERVIEW: #DOUGLASSWEEK

EDUCATIONAL STRAND

Main Events

Monday, 8th, 2.00pm (GMT):

University College Cork Equality, Diversity, Inclusion Unit panel: Conversations about Race: Hosted by Dr. Amanullah DeSondy with Timi Ogunyemi, Dr. Anthea Butler and Sir Geoff Palmer. The panel will discuss the legacy of Douglass and racism in the U.S., Ireland and Scotland

Monday, 8th, 6.30-8pm (GMT):

"Like a Man, Not a Colour": Unsilencing Black Voices Panel Discussion: Roundtable event hosted by Sandrine Ndahiro and Catherine Osikoya (University of Limerick) from Unsilencing Black Voices, featuring a range of Black Irish academic voices

Tuesday, 9th, 2pm (GMT):

Anti-Human Trafficking Event: Hosted by MECPATHS (Mercy Efforts for Child Protection Against Trafficking with the Hospitality and Services Sectors) Cork

Tuesday, 9th, 6pm (GMT):

"PROTECT" Our Communities: Discussion with Ashlie Bryant (3Strands Global Foundation) and Kenneth B. Morris Jr. (Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives), about the partnership between FDFI and two California nonprofits- 3Strands and Love Never Fails- to develop PROTECT, the largest and most comprehensive human trafficking prevention education program of its kind. The conversation will focus on how to reduce the vulnerability of children to exploitation through increased awareness and prevention initiatives and related topics, hosted by Kristin Leary (Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives)

Wednesday, 10th, 6.30-8pm (GMT):

"My Ireland": Unsilencing Black Voices: Roundtable discussion hosted by Sandrine Ndahiro and Catherine Osikoya (University of Limerick) from Unsilencing Black Voices, and featuring a range of young Black Irish voices

Thursday, 11th, 3-4pm (GMT):

Teaching Douglass and Decolonising the Curriculum: Roundtable event introducing the Frederick Douglass Educational Curriculum efforts in Ireland with Dr. Hannah-Rose Murray (University of Edinburgh), Dr. Naomi Masheti (Cork Migrant Centre), Dr. Adrian Mulligan (Bucknell University), Dr. Hussein Omar (University College Dublin) and Dr. Caroline Dunham-Schroeter (University College Cork) discussing efforts in Ireland to decolonize the educational curriculum in schools and universities, hosted by Dr. Dónal Hassett (University College Cork)

On our website: Online survey and competition by the Museum of Childhood

Initiatives

Unscheduled:

Development of an Ireland-Focused Frederick

Douglass Curriculum: A sub-committee of #DouglassWeek is adapting the "History, Human Rights and the Power of the One" educational curriculum, developed by the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, for an Irish context and audience. The committee will create a 1-hour lesson plan to create a comprehensive academic, educational curriculum to be offered to primary and secondary schools in Ireland in 2021-2022

Unscheduled:

Special Collaboration with the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives and their One Million Abolitionists

Project: The goal of the OMA project is to gift Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* to one million students and encourage civic engagement across the world. Following #DouglassWeek, we will **present copies of his *Narrative* to pilot schools in Ireland** (as part of the curriculum above) to continue to change and inspire the lives of young Irish readers

On our website:

Pre-recorded Cork Migrant Centre Video Project

On our website:

Welcome to Barretstown: A 20-minute video targeted at a younger audience will explore themes that were very close to Douglass's heart: resilience, overcoming and education

A #DouglassWeek flag will be flown at University College Cork to raise awareness of the event series, Frederick Douglass and the many contributions from Ireland and abroad

OVERVIEW: #DOUGLASSWEEK

CREATIVE STRAND

Main Events

Tuesday, 9th, 8.30pm (GMT):

Douglass and Diversity on Screen: Roundtable with Roger Guenveur Smith, Kenneth B. Morris Jr. and Paul Oakley Stovall about efforts to bring historical figures like Frederick Douglass to the stage and screen, hosted by Dr. Caroline Dunham-Schroeter (University College Cork, Ireland). **This event will lead into a live performance by Roger Guenveur Smith of his play "Frederick Douglass NOW"**

Thursday, 11th, 5pm (GMT):

18th Century to 21st Century Cork: Mentors and young people from the Cork Migrant Centre speaking about their inspiration and the work they have created as part of Douglass week

Friday, 12th, 6pm (GMT):

I am remarkable: Cork Migrant Centre, Nano Nagle Place in collaboration with CYPSE and the #DouglassWeek team are happy to present a webinar series called 'I am remarkable'. Joined by guest speakers, this event will serve to highlight and promote the positive narratives of Black people in Ireland

Friday, 12th, 7pm (GMT):

Reform through Photography: Frederick Douglass and the Power of the Image: Discussion with Prof. John Stauffer (Harvard University) about Douglass's love of photography and the power of the medium, hosted by Dr. Fionnghuala Sweeney (Newcastle University)

Saturday, 13th, 3pm (GMT):

Irish Music, Minstrel Shows and Stereotyping: Navigating societal perception in the 19th century and onward: "In Conversation" piece with Leni Sloan and Mick Moloney

Saturday, 13th, 6pm (GMT): Scene Sneak Preview of Arracht and Interview with Tom Sullivan and Dónall Ó Héalaí

Sunday, 14th, 4pm (GMT):

Painting Douglass: A conversation with Nikkolos Smith, Jim Fitzpatrick and other artists about the process of portraying iconic figures

Sunday, 14th, 6pm (GMT): Film Discussion about the film Foster Boy: Conversation with *Foster Boy* film producers Peter Samuelson and others; **immediately following the conclusion of our exclusive 48 hour access to the film for #DouglassWeek viewers**

On our website:

Exclusive Access to the film Foster Boy: Viewing available to the #DouglassWeek audience, 13th and 14th of February

On our website:

Screening of a short film based on four perspectives on Frederick Douglass: The film is produced by the Cork Migrant Centre and partners. These perspectives will be narrated through spoken word and songs with the recurring theme of transformative change. The initiative is led by Friday Junior Osemwekhae

Initiatives

On our website:

"Irishness Has No Colour": Screening of film project by Unsilencing Black Voices

On our website:

Sonic Collage of Douglass in Ireland by sound artist Isabel Ronan (University College Cork)

On our website:

"Heritage" A short video performance featuring black artists and personalities who represent, inspire and contribute to the visibility of black people and black culture in Ireland: Collaboration between Alessandra Azevedo, (Dancer, Afro-Brazilian Cultural facilitator, Dublin), Fionnuala O'Connell (Youth Project Worker, Artist, Cork), Andrea Williams (Dancer/Choreographer, Model, Actor and Art Director, Cork), Raphael Olympio (Rapper/Spoken Word Artist/Songwriter, Cork)

On our website:

Art project by Climate Youth Artists (Cork): Connecting Douglass's activism with efforts to end Direct Provision; this will be a digital work, but will be printed and installed as artwork in Cork City when possible

On our website:

Rebel Matters Podcast: Interview with historian Dr. Laurence Fenton about Douglass, #DouglassWeek and Cork

OVERVIEW: #DOUGLASSWEEK

MUSIC STRAND

Main Events

Wednesday, 10th, 6pm (GMT):

Inspiration Series Cork Kick-Off: Established artists inspire youth groups from the Cork Migrant Centre, hosted by Stevie G

Wednesday, 10th, 8pm (GMT):

A Musical Evening to Commemorate Douglass, featuring:

- **"In Conversation" with International Musical Experts:** A conversation featuring *Hamilton* stars Paul Oakley Stovall and Nikhil Saboo, Brendan Breslin (Royal Irish Academy of Music), Eimear Noone (first female conductor at the Academy Awards), Lesley Roy, Balbriggan songwriter who has worked with Katy Perry and is the Irish entrant for Eurovision 2020/21 and others, hosted by the Irish Institute of Music and Song co-founder, Dónal Kearney and Sarah McCreedy
- **Performances** by a variety of artists in different genres, ranging from hip hop to traditional, spirituals and folk music

- **BLM and #EndDirectProvision Song project:** Led by University College Cork's Dr. Griff Rollefson, performance of "*Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*" with Irish translation and with the help of a mix of Irish traditional musicians, western instruments, Caribbean steel pan, and student contributors from the School of Film, Music and Theatre at University College Cork

- **Presentation of commissioned Song IIMS:** The composition of a brand-new piece to mark the life of Frederick Douglass, written by co-founders of the Irish Institute of Music and Song, Dónal Kearney and Michael T. Dawson, in collaboration with members of Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton* and the Cork Migrant Centre

- **Song Showcase "What Does Freedom Look Like?":** From the Douglass musical *American Prophet*, opening at Arena Stage in Washington, DC in 2021 Song Showcase, directed by Charles Randolph-Wright with music by Marcus Hummon

Wednesday, 10th, 6pm (GMT): Interactive Singing

Workshop: Run by choral expert and co-founder of the Irish Institute of Music and Song, Michael T. Dawson

Wednesday, 10th, 3:30pm (GMT): Early Years Video

and Workshop: A collaboration between Barretstown and The Irish Institute of Music and Song, hosted by Fiona Killeen (Barretstown)

Wednesday, 10th, 4:30pm (GMT): Teens Online

Music Workshop: A collaboration between Barretstown, Stevie Grainger, Paul Oakley Stovall and Nikhil Saboo and The Irish Institute of Music and Song, hosted by Fiona Killeen (Barretstown)

Friday, 12th, 4pm (GMT):

Advocacy workshop: With former UN human rights advocate and co-founder of the Irish Institute of Music and Song, Dónal Kearney

OVERVIEW: #DOUGLASSWEEK

SPORTS STRAND

Main Events

Saturday, 13th, 11am (GMT):
The Sanctuary Runners' Run Through Africa

Saturday, 13th, 2-5pm (GMT):
Challenging Racism in Our Communities: Workshop facilitated by Unite the Union and Communities against Racism with participation from Cobh Ramblers and East Cork Traveller Project

Saturday, 13th, 7-8pm (GMT):
Frederick Douglass Commemorative Event: Hosted by Cobh Ramblers Football Club in association with the Football Association of Ireland

On our website:
Competition for Sticker Design by Unite the Union, aimed at young people (with cash prize), to encourage activism and participation

Our gratitude for their support to all our partners:



FREDERICK DOUGLASS
FAMILY INITIATIVES



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Global Irish Studies



Museum of
Literature
Ireland

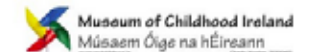
museum
National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann



Harvard Club of Ireland



IRISH INSTITUTE OF
MUSIC & SONG





#DOUGLASSWEEK 8-14 FEB 2021
TRACING FREDERICK DOUGLASS'S FOOTSTEPS IN IRELAND

For questions or comments, please contact project leads
Dr. Caroline Schroeter (caroline.schroeter@ucc.ie),
Dr. Tim Groenland (tim.groenland@ucc.ie) or **Sarah McCreedy**
(sarah.mcCreedy@ucc.ie) or the wider **#DouglassWeek** team at info@douglassincork.com.

