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Unpsychology Magazine Issue 5: Earth Songs submissions guidelines

"Music is like the soul of the planet,"
Taj Mahal



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Issue 5 Earth Songs: sweet soul elegies and dancing the blues Submissions guidelines

"Music is like the soul of the planet,"

Taj Mahal

Unpsychology Magazine responds to themes of psychology, soul-making and ecology.

Our fifth issue will explore the role of music, song and dance as placeholders for human and non-human wellbeing, ecology and healing.

We invite you to make music with us in our themed edition: **Earth Songs - sweet soul elegies and dancing the blues.**

We live in interesting times: bleak times, frightening times – times of extreme weather patterns, exponential extinction rates, widespread pollution and degradation of the natural world, persistent social injustice. The human impact upon our common home increasingly erodes health, livelihood and personal stability, threatening the very survival of the planet's inhabitants.

We are a devastating species, reaching our crescendo. How on earth can we find it within us to sing or to dance, in such circumstances?

Yet even in the bleakest of times, music uplifts and comforts us. It touches upon the beautiful edges of the human experience, and brings us together gently, invisibly. *"Music is like the soul of the planet,"* says Taj Mahal – it allows us to practice soul-making in all its healing, binding ways.

This next issue of **Unpsychology Magazine** will be published as both a free downloadable e-book linked to an online multimedia collection of writing, audio and video recordings, and visual installations.

We invite submissions that cogitate, commiserate and celebrate, and which delve deeply into creative alternatives and wild mind.

This call is for:

- writers, visual artists and activists (who we encourage to tune up their most musical imaginations);
- musicians, composers, dancers, singers and all those engaged in making elegies and life-songs, singing the blues and dancing the future;
- therapists, practitioners and soul-workers who are using music, song and dance – and related artforms and practices – to delve deeper into our imaginations, heal our individual and collective traumas and explore the essence of our 'unpsychology'.

We welcome work that addresses how the deep, psychological implications of social and ecological connection, equality, inclusion and social cohesion can be addressed through music.

We invite short fiction, poems, non-fiction, artwork and anything else that can be published on a digital page that addresses this theme. However we are also particularly interested in musical form submissions such as sheet music and songs; sound-maps, chord-shapes, earth-sounds, music videos, multi-media musical artworks, healing sound-baths and any combinations of the above!

We'd prefer work that is entirely original and hasn't been published elsewhere – but if you have an existing project you think would fit Unpsychology, get in touch and have a chat with one of us.

The deadline for submissions is 31st December 2018.

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Issue 5 Sweet soul elegies and dancing the blues Submissions guidelines continued/

This music themed edition of **Unpsychology** will be published in Spring/Summer 2019 as a digital and online anthology and will be offered free of charge to ensure maximum circulation of the ideas, writing and artwork.

We value our authors and artists, and know ourselves how difficult it is to get work out there. **Unpsychology** is a self-funded publication, and so we haven't got the resources to pay people for their work at this stage. However, you will be profiled on websites, and social media, and will be invited to be involved in launch events. In addition, everyone who has their work published will receive a digital pack of goodies.

Our theme for this issue is **Earth Songs**. We will explore music, song and dance as artistic responses to ecological and social crisis – and as vehicles for healing, acceptance, celebration, revolution and evolution.

Fiction & Non-Fiction: word limit: up to 5,000 words.

We invite all kinds of fiction and non-fiction, but have a particular interest in the speculative and imaginative. Bonus points for work consciously reflecting the truths of our world and societies, as well as alternative perspectives on climate change. Stories, essays, polemics, interviews, memoirs and diaries, manifestos, biographies and travelogues are all welcome. We also have a soft spot for the rediscovery of old wisdoms in new contexts. We want a good mix of perspectives! Say something new! Note: We'd welcome writing with musical accompaniment (see Music & Video below.) Graphic fiction or non-fiction would also be great (see Artwork below.)

Poetry: up to 100 lines

More than anything, we appreciate poetry that is beautiful in its darkness as well as its light.

Artwork:

We welcome submissions of artwork originally produced in any medium. These could be one-off pieces, a series of images telling a story or responding to the theme. For this issue we are looking for musical themed art and this could include musical forms, typography or any other response!

Music & Video:

Original music, songs and soundscapes are particularly welcome. Talk to us if you have a query about this – it's a new direction for us too, so we welcome dialogue. Note that we'd like your music to be contextualised if possible – we want to hear your story!

Formats:

Fiction, non-fiction and poetry submissions should be in an easy-to-read font such as Arial or Times New Roman, and should be attached to the email in .doc or .odt format, and artwork in high definition .jpg format. Music can be submitted either as mp3s or similar format, or links to musical sites such as Soundcloud or similar. If you're submitting music videos – again these can be provided as files or as links.

Please send submissions to: submissions@unpsychology.org

The deadline for this issue is December 31st 2018.

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About Unpsychology Magazine

Unpsychology Magazine is a journal of writing, art and ideas – of imagination, psychology and soul.

Sprouting from the acorn of James Hillman's radical soul-making theories; the slopes of the 'uncivilised' Dark Mountain Project and a growing ecosystem of ecopsychologists, feminists, neurodiversity activists, arts practitioners and others, it was launched in 2014 as a vehicle for exploring alternative and 'uncivilised' responses to psychology and culture.

Against a background of social and ecological crisis – our troubled times – **Unpsychology Magazine** invites authors and artists to share stories and ideas that cut through the limiting assumptions of psychology, therapy and culture, and to begin to craft new ways of thinking about what it means to be 'normal' in our societies.

Unpsychology sits alongside initiatives and approaches like the Dark Mountain Project, Icarus Project, Hearing Voices **Network**, Open Dialogue, Lapidus, the Spiritual Companions Trust, The Spiritual Crisis Network, the Ecopsychology Network, the Climate Psychology Alliance and others. The magazine has forged links to a community of artists, activists, musicians and practitioners who are developing practices work based on imagination, depth, creativity and ecology of mind.

Previous issues can be accessed at unpsychology.org where you can still buy issue 3 (**The Childhood edition**) in print as well as digital versions of 1 & 2. Our most recent issue, **The Climate Minds Anthology**, is also available to download as a free e-book.

The next edition of Unpsychology Magazine will be published digitally in various formats under the theme of **Earth Songs: sweet soul elegies and dancing the blues**. This theme embraces music, song and dance as responses to ecological and social crisis – and as vehicles for healing, acceptance, celebration, revolution and evolution.

The fifth issue of Unpsychology will be edited by Steve Thorp and Julia Macintosh. We look forward to seeing your proposals and ideas!

Steve Thorp and Julia Macintosh: Unpsychology, October 2018