

Lines On Music

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Conversations on the Study and Performance of Music

Episode 4 Show Notes: 'Street Music'

September 2020

Busking... most musicians do it at some stage or other, for some it is even their primary income. From BB King, to Tracy Chapman, to Ed Sheeran many household names in the world of popular music have cut their teeth busking. Playing on the street provides musicians with a unique performance environment, which requires particular strategies to draw and hold an audience... not everyone can do it.

In this episode, 'Street Music', we speak to Dr Elizabeth Bennett about her co-authored report 'From Brass Bands to Buskers: Street Music in the UK', where we dig down into the cultural history of street entertainment and busking. We also speak to Dr Diana Omigie and Heather Thueringer about their research paper 'The Busking Experiment: A Field Study Measuring Behavioural Responses to Street Music Performances' to find out what scientific methods and research approaches around behavioural analysis can tell us about what makes a successful busker.

The episode begins and ends with the music of Toulouse ensemble Les Flanfleurs Brass Band. You can find out more about the band at their website here <http://www.lesfanflures.fr/welcome/fr>

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Jeremiah | [Lines on Music](https://www.linesonmusic.com)

Biographies

Dr Elizabeth Bennett is a lecturer in the department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies at the University of Essex. Her teaching specialisms include Theatre and Human Rights, Theatre, Gender and Sexuality, Voice and Movement, and Writing Lyrics. Her main areas of interest are contemporary performance in relation to space, place, and landscape, participatory performance practices, community arts, performative writing and voice. Her doctoral thesis, 'Singing the South Downs Way: Affect in Performance and Practice', was an autoethnographic study of folk singing in Sussex. She performs regularly as an unaccompanied folk singer and as part of natural voice community choirs.

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Dr Diana Omigie is a cognitive neuroscientist and member of the Music, Mind and Brain research group at Goldsmiths where she co-directs the MSc programme in Music, Mind and Brain with Daniel Müllensiefen. Diana's research interests revolve around the behavioural, physiological and neural correlates of music-induced emotions and the aesthetic experience.

Web: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/psychology/staff/omigie/>

Heather Thueringer is a music curator, researcher and graduate of the MSc, Perception and Cognitive Neuroscience of Music programme at the department of Psychology at Goldsmiths.



Fig. 1. Hogarth, William. The Enraged Musician. (1741).
Etching and engraving on paper. Tate Collection.

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