

September 2009

New website

The BFE is pleased to introduce its new website (at the old address www.bfe.org.uk), which aims to integrate a new, appealing design with user-friendly navigation. (Please note that this website exists in conjunction with the recently introduced BFE Conference website, available at www.bfeconference.org.uk.) Whilst some information may already be familiar to some users, the new website also features new items, including information on publishers of books written by ethnomusicologists in the UK, latest job advertisements in ethnomusicology and other music-related fields, an updated section for students of ethnomusicology, and funding opportunities for academics, scholars and students. The password-protected members-only section is not available via this new website, yet there are plans that such a section may be replaced by an external site in the near future. We hope you find the new website appealing and user-friendly. If you have any comments to improve the new website, or any other feedback, please contact the website co-ordinator.

Call for news items

We would like to invite you to submit a news story or item for publication on the BFE website. This could include information on:

- recent fieldwork trips (including images)
- recent publications of monographs, edited books, articles, reviews, etc
- recent appointments in ethnomusicology
- recent promotions, e.g. Professorships in ethnomusicology
- recent completion of a MA/MPhil/PhD thesis in ethnomusicology
- review of a conference recently attended
- a special award or prize given to an academic, scholar or student in ethnomusicology
- a recent special occasion of interest to ethnomusicologists
- etc.

To submit a news story or item, please contact the [website co-ordinator](#).

XXV European Seminar in Ethnomusicology

The European Seminar in Ethnomusicology will be hosted by the Open University in Milton Keynes from 18-22 September this year. The theme of the meeting will be 'Performance', and the John Blacking Memorial Lecture will be given by professor Richard Widdess (SOAS). All are welcome. For the latest draft programme, registration form and other details go to www.open.ac.uk/Arts/esem/. [submitted by Martin Clayton]

NEWS ARCHIVE

British Library puts new world and traditional music collections online

The British Library launches new traditional and world music collections online at <http://sounds.bl.uk>. Featuring unique field recordings, live performances and out-of-print commercial releases, this latest addition to the JISC-funded Archival Sound Recordings website provides a sample of musical traditions from around the world - offering a valuable resource for ethnomusicologists. See also <http://www.bl.uk/news/2009/pressrelease20090904.html> [submitted by Janet Topp-Fargion]

New website on Angolan music

Angolan-Portuguese instrument designer and musician Victor Gama just sent me the URL of the new, beautifully constructed website that's part of a really worthwhile 12-year project, of which he is the director, to record and video traditional musicians in rural Angola and encourage them and their traditions by connecting them and their music to the outside world: <http://www.tsikaya.org>. Quite apart from the value of its content, the website is a shining example of how well ethnomusicology-related things can and might be done with the Web. A CD is about to be released too. [submitted by Andrew Cronshaw, www.andrewcronshaw.com, www.myspace.com/andrewcronshaw]

Songlines' Reviews of Books by BFE Members

Books by BFE members have fared well in reviews in recent issues of [Songlines magazine](#).

- Rachel Harris' book *The Making of a Musical Canon in Chinese Central Asia: The Uyghur Twelve Muqam* (Ashgate) was awarded 3 stars in the June issue.
- Barley Norton's *Songs for the Spirits: Music and Spirit Mediums in Modern Vietnam* (Illinois) was awarded 4 stars in the July issue.
- Caroline Bithell's *Transported by Song: Corsican Voices from Oral Tradition to World Stage* (Scarecrow) was awarded 5 stars in the August issue.
- Eleni Kallimopoulou's *Paradosiaká: Music, Meaning and Identity in Modern Greece* (Ashgate) was awarded 4 stars in the September issue.

Thank you Songlines!

New Book by BFE member

Barbara Lebrun has just completed her book entitled *Protest Music in France: Production, Identity and Audiences*, published by Ashgate (Folk and Popular Music Series). The book traces the evolution of protest music in France since 1981, exploring the contradictions that emerge when artists who take their musical production and political commitment 'seriously', cross over to the mainstream, becoming profitable and consensual. Barbara is a colleague in French Studies at the University of Manchester with a research specialism in popular music in France. For more information about the book, see [Ashgate website](#).

NEWS ARCHIVE

2009 BFE Student Prize

The winner of the 2009 prize for the best student paper presented at the 2009 annual conference at Liverpool John Moores University goes to Sue Miller for her paper, "'The Thieving Magpie': Musical Borrowing, Quotes and Signifiers in Cuban Charanga Improvisation". The panel thought this was highly original work, demonstrating an expert knowledge of the subject matter, using superb examples chosen with a performer's as well as an audience perspective, pertinent and persuasive use relevant theory woven into the narrative, and tightly timed presentation. *Many congratulations!*

OU – New Music Research Studio Officer

Dr Simone Tarsitani, Leverhulme Trust Visiting Research Fellow from November 2008 to September 2009, has been appointed as Music Research Studio Officer at the Open University from 14 September 2009. Simone will be responsible for managing a new facility, ideal for research on music performance and suitable for a wide range of interdisciplinary research, education and dissemination purposes, comprising two recording rooms, a recording control room (up to 24 audio tracks and 5 video signals), and four research pods for audio/video editing and analysis. For more information: <http://www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/music/facilities.htm>.