



# THE BFE PODCAST PROJECT

How to Create an Audio-Podcast

BFE Annual Conference, 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2023

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## STRUCTURE OF TODAY'S WORKSHOP

- ▶ Why Podcasts?
- ▶ The BFE Podcast Project and the BFE Project Team
- ▶ 3 Podcast Types
- ▶ 3 Different Formats
- ▶ The Podcast Script
- ▶ Performing the Podcast Script
- ▶ The Visual Presentation
- ▶ Listen to BFE Podcasts
- ▶ Submit a BFE Podcast

# PRODUCING PODCASTS

## Why Podcasts?

- ▶ Making academic work accessible
- ▶ Promoting audio-production as a serious way of publishing material
- ▶ High standard production rather than Do-it-yourself

# BFE PODCAST PROJECT

## 3 Podcast Types:

- ▶ A) BFE Regular Podcast Series
- ▶ B) BFE Special Edition Podcasts (Call for Podcasts)
- ▶ C) BFE Student Podcasts



## Team:

Lea Hagmann (SRF radio journalist, BFE Outreach Officer, project lead)

Matt Dicken (former BFE Student Liaison Officer, recording specialist)

Thomas Graves (BFE Podcast Manager)

Lucy Duran (external advisor, BBC journalist, professor at SOAS)

# 3 PODCAST TYPES

## **A) BFE Regular Podcast Series**

- ▶ 10 min podcasts on any ethnomusicological topic
- ▶ Based on the BFE Podcast Guidelines
- ▶ One of the following formats:
  - ▶ 1) Sequenced programme
  - ▶ 2) Interview
  - ▶ 3) On location feature

# 3 PODCAST TYPES

## **B) BFE Special Edition Podcasts**

- ▶ 10 min podcasts on a specific ethnomusicological topic, chosen by the podcast team
- ▶ Call for podcasts:
  - ▶ 1#Careers Beyond Academia / 2#Academia and Caring Responsibilities
- ▶ Based on the BFE Podcast Guidelines
- ▶ One of the following formats:
  - ▶ 1) Sequenced programme
  - ▶ 2) Interview
  - ▶ 3) On location feature

## 3 PODCAST TYPES

### C) BFE Student Podcasts

- ▶ Podcasts on any ethnomusicological topic
- ▶ Based on the BFE Podcast Guidelines
- ▶ Any format is possible

## 3 DIFFERENT FORMATS

### I) Sequenced Programme

- ▶ I-presenter on a specific topic: musical genre, instrument, musician, musical phenomenon etc.
- ▶ Length: 10 min
- ▶ Script alternates
  - ▶ text (ca. 60% = 6 min)
  - ▶ music / sounds (ca. 40% = 4 min), max. duration 30 sec
- ▶ Based on a **podcast script**



# 3 DIFFERENT FORMATS

## 2) Interviews

- ▶ You conduct an interview with one or more expert/s on your topic.
- ▶ This interview needs to be edited.
- ▶ Shorten your interviewees' answers to their essence without changing the meaning of them.
- ▶ Turn taking is important.
- ▶ The maximal duration of your interviewees' answer should be 20-30 seconds.
- ▶ Don't interrupt interviewee with assertive noises, such as "mhm".
- ▶ Play music in between the spoken parts.

# 3 DIFFERENT FORMATS

## 3) On location feature

- ▶ I presenter on a specific topic, including excerpts from interviews (e.g. experts, participants), soundscapes, atmosphere, musical excerpts, live-recordings etc.
- ▶ Length: 10 min
- ▶ Script alternates
  - ▶ Presenter's text / interview excerpts (ca. 60% = 6 min)
  - ▶ music / soundscapes /atmosphere (ca. 40% = 4 min)
- ▶ Based on a **podcast script**

# LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

- ▶ Podcasts in languages other than English are welcome. Please send us an e-mail: [podcasts@bfe.org.uk](mailto:podcasts@bfe.org.uk)
- ▶ Original quotes in languages other than English in interviews are very welcome.
- ▶ Either you let the speakers **speak in their language for some seconds**, then take the volume down and let another speaker **speak the translation on top of the original sound**. In the end, pull the volume of the original sound up again, so that **the quote ends in the original language**.
- ▶ Or: you **pre-translate** a part of the interview, leave the interview quote in the original language, and **post-translate** the rest thereafter.

# THE PODCAST SCRIPT

- ▶ Written scheme of podcast: text, music, sounds, interview excerpts etc.
- ▶ Write **short, simple** and concise sentences (avoid relative clauses)
- ▶ Use **active language** (active rather than passive verbs make your language vivid)
- ▶ Use the **present tense** whenever possible
- ▶ When reading your text slowly, you should need **no more than max. 1 min** before providing a music example, the voice of an interviewee or a sonic interruption
- ▶ **Cite the sources** for your background information at the end of your script
- ▶ Include the **references to your audio sources** in the script

# THE PODCAST SCRIPT

## SCRIPT:

...use 'Circling', last track introduced in show under voice in introduction...

This is *Flash Orbit*, a short programme in a series with me, Victoria Major, where I share with you music I love from around the globe/ Today, we'll focus on Indonesian gamelan, both a musical style and ensemble of keyed metallophones, bossed gongs, and drums from Java and Bali.

We'll address topics of homage and appropriation... welcome to the show.

1. TRACK: Suite for Violin with American Gamelan: I. Threnody  
Composer: LOU HARRISON

...vol up music down to talk over...

I've long adored the sounds of vibraphones and glockenspiels / continuously playing the 1983 album *Through The Looking Glass* by Japanese percussionist Midori Takada. / I even found time to stop and listen to wind chimes as I walked past people's gardens./ But when Harrison's suite swept me away, and I crept inside the long resonant vibrations of his gongs / I came across the unfamiliar word 'gamelan' for the very first time.

*Example: Student Podcast, Victoria Major, SOAS University of London, 2019*

# THE PODCAST SCRIPT

**Intro Track: Carter Burwell: The Book, ca 00:10 – 00:35**

**Album: The Ballad of Buster Scruggs (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), 2018**

*Music fading out, start talking over the last notes.*

Welcome to this podcast about the story of a song. My name is Patrick Staub and today I will take you on a journey through time. We'll be travelling from Europe to North America and back again.

Our story starts in County Cork, Ireland. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1848, the music collector William Forde wrote down a single verse to a song called "My Jewel, My Joy". The singer learned the song already 60 years earlier and was only able to remember this one verse. Here's a recording of the verse, sung in 1966 by Sam Hinton.

**Sam Hinton: My Jewel, My Joy, ca 00:00 – 00:25**

**Album: The Wandering Folksong, 1966**

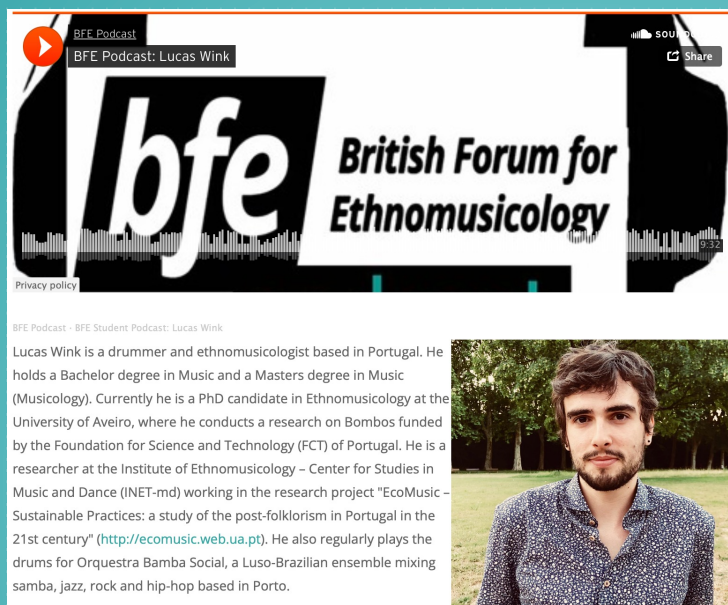
*Example: Student Podcast, Patrick Staub, University of Bern, 2021*



# PERFORMING THE PODCAST SCRIPT

- ▶ **Spoken slowly** (approx. 150 words per minute)
- ▶ **Natural breathing** (don't cut breaths when editing)
- ▶ **Imagine your audience while recording**

## THE VISUAL PRESENTATION



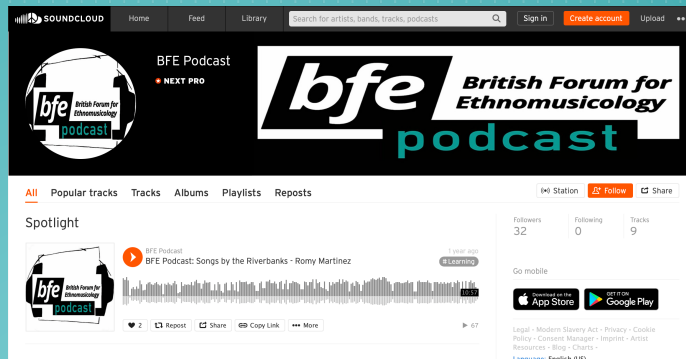
Audio

Mini-biography with links

picture



# LISTEN TO BFE PODCASTS



<https://soundcloud.com/bfe-podcast-project>

# SUBMIT A BFE PODCAST

- ▶ 1) Send a podcast script including references to [podcasts@bfe.org.uk](mailto:podcasts@bfe.org.uk)
- ▶ 2) You'll be given feedback on your podcast script
- ▶ 3) Revise your podcast script and record it
- ▶ 4) The podcast team might have some additional feedback on your audio product and will add the BFE podcast jingle to your podcast
- ▶ 5) Send a picture and a mini-bio to the podcast team
- ▶ 6) The BFE uploads your podcast on SoundCloud and integrates it to the BFE website. Subsequently the BFE mailing list is informed about your audio-publication

# PRODUCING PODCASTS

## Any Questions?



We're happy to help: [podcasts@bfe.org.uk](mailto:podcasts@bfe.org.uk)

Visit our website: <https://bfe.org.uk/bfe-podcast-project>