New Music Collection Captures The Voice of the People

In need of a rhythm injection? Feeling jaded with the posing peacock that is pop? Dr Reg Hall, a research fellow in CCS, could have you boogying in the corridors - at the same time as he is reclaiming a forgotten slice of British culture.

In what is surely the most ambitious compilation of traditional music ever, Reg has gathered together 511 recordings and created 20 CD's which record the finest moments of British and Irish 'folk' music. In fact, Reg is uncomfortable with the tag 'folk', preferring to call the music 'traditional'. As he points out, the idea of 'folk' was imposed on the working classes by the late-Victorian middle classes in a bid to purify and nationalise British culture. "Suddenly the middle classes felt a bit disenchanted with the world, and they said - "look at the people down there. I don't want to eat with them, I don't want to marry their daughters, but my God, don't they have marvellous songs!"" With his CD collection, entitled The Voice of the People, Reg is reclaiming this heritage back.

A keen musician himself, Reg plays the melodeon, an accordion-like instrument with a rhythmic sound. In fact he was inspired to become a historian through his love of playing and listening to traditional music, "Studying history made me see the music I was surrounded by as history. I certainly see this collection as a historical record." Indeed, the collection gives a fantastic insight into the everyday lives of "people with dirt under their fingernails," as one musician puts it. For any student of early-to-mid-twentieth century working-class culture, it provides a particularly valuable perspective on something which emerged directly from that culture rather than being imposed upon it.

Reg feels that now is the perfect time to create history from traditional music, since "the world's changing. All these people, and all these cultures, and that sort of life - it's all dying out. The sort of music that's on these CDs can't ever be made again. I think that's it."

Reg was driven to record Voice of the People by a fear that the tradition would die out both musically and historically. Nonetheless, he points out that it is still "great art and great entertainment." This is music that kept people dancing until 6.00 am in rural communities all over the country, music that people walked fifteen miles to hear.

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"Traditional music is real, it's the way people are. It has all the classic things that every art form has. What it doesn't have is sophistication or pretension. And every one of these songs is as funny as Ben Elton, or as tragic as Shakespeare."

Reg's main objective is to say, "look, there's this body of cultural material, and you should enjoy it for itself, but it should also make you think about your roots, the way your grandparents lived, where your language comes from." His favourite song is Margaret Barry's recording of She Moved Through the Fair "which was done in a pub, with the cash register going in the background." Maybe you could find a favourite too...the collection is available in the library, so there's no excuse for not getting on down to that ranting and reeling beat.

Why not take a look at the University of Sussex Cyber Café?

It is multi-functional - as a meeting place, a venue to discuss problems, air views, resolve issues and exchange information. These services are all available through a computer using a web browser, such as Netscape or Internet Explorer. You can enter the Cyber Café either on or off campus at any time of the day or night, leave your message for all to read (anonymously if you wish), and return later to view the replies.

Turn to page 3 to find out more about the site.

Sussex Postgraduate Fair
Tuesday 24 November 1998

For students who are thinking about postgraduate study, The Sussex Postgraduate Fair is an opportunity to:
- Talk with representatives of the major courses
- Explore your options
- Research how you might fund postgraduate study
- Examine how to approach applications

12:00 - 3:00 pm, Terrace Room, Refectory Building, Sussex University
Geographers Go Down To The Sea Again

Each year in Sussex millions of pounds are spent on sea defences to try to stop flooding and coast erosion. At Peacehaven in 1996 the government spent £1.4 million on a mere 300 m extension to the existing sea wall while at Saltdean and Rottingdean the newly completed sea wall repairs and beach replenishment have cost nearly £7 million. The final bill for improved coastal defences for Lancing and Shoreham is expected to reach £14 million when the work is completed. The Environment Agency would like to spend £40 million on new defensive works at Pevensey, but not surprisingly are having difficulties finding the money. Elsewhere in Britain and Western Europe the story is much the same: spending on coastal defences has become a worryingly large budget item for governments and seaside communities.

There are increasing doubts as to whether the present high levels of spending are sustainable in the long run, but attempts to cut costs are hampered by lack of basic scientific information. To help plug the information gap, Geographers at Sussex have begun a major research project on the erosion dynamics of rocky coasts under a three-year contract with the EC. Funded by the Marine Science and Technology programme, the £666,000 project brings together geographers and other scientists from Universities across Europe. The co-ordinator for the five nation project is Dr Rendel Williams (CPES), who will be working with fellow Geographers Dr Cherith Moses (CPES) and Dr David Robinson (AFRAS).

The project researchers are in the process of selecting study sites that represent the full range of wave and tidal environments in Western Europe. A newly developed portable laser scanner will be used to make precise measurements of rates of downwearing of rocks in the inter-tidal zone, and these will then be related to measurements of cliff recession. The researchers aim to develop a better understanding of the erosional dynamics of rocky shores in order to assist coastal management agencies in designing appropriate sea defences to cope with not only the existing threat of coast erosion but also the rising sea levels predicted for the 21st century. Who knows - with a little luck, they will be able to trim millions of pounds from the annual bill for Europe's sea defences.

Our Man in Honduras

Sean Hawkey graduated from the GRC in Culture, Development and the Environment last year, and went to work with Chorti Indians in Honduras. He was there when disaster struck. He pitched in with the disaster relief, and this is his report about the situation:

"In Tegucigalpa the crisis deepens as the City enters its 7th day without water and communications by road. People are taking water from the rivers which are highly contaminated since all latrines and sewers flooded over. The few clean sources of water in the city have lines of people who wait for hours into the night to fill their buckets.

"The mayor of Morolica spoke on the radio today. He had walked 103 kilometres from his town. Weeping, he told how the town had been destroyed, it no longer existed. Yesterday I spent six hours trying to get a medical pack through for transport to the north. We had to travel along a forest path and, along with a hundred or so vehicles, got stuck. Many of them spent the night in mud despite having four by four jeeps.

"The dry season is not far off and our priority, in the midst of emergency operations for immediate disaster relief, is to rapidly plan the purchase of seed for sowing. This has to be fast growing varieties with low water requirements. If the dry season arrives and a harvest is not made the crisis will take on more tragic dimensions."

So far, according to Sean, £30,000 has been raised within the Brighton area for disaster relief in Honduras. If you are interested in making a donation, or you want to know more, you can email Sean on sean_hawkey@hotmail.com.

Professor Stuart Sutherland 1927-98

Stuart Sutherland’s death a few days ago deprives Sussex of one of its most significant and colourful personalities. After reading PPE at Oxford and winning the John Locke Prize in Mental Philosophy he worked on shape discrimination in octopuses and other animals with J Z Young in Naples. From a University Lectureship in Oxford he was appointed in 1964 to head the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology at the infant University of Sussex, where he spent the rest of his academic life. Under its autocratic but always benevolent Chairman, the Lab quickly became one of the most prestigious psychology departments in Britain - or, indeed, anywhere - supplying talent to Cambridge, Glasgow, Princeton and Edinburgh. Stuart’s judgment was much sought after by colleagues and feared by the readers of his pungent book reviews. His famous book Breakdown broke new ground in the public airing of private agonies, and helped a number of readers to cope with their own psychological problems. His last book - Irrationality - has some rude things to say about judges, generals and financiers. He was an impossible person to deal with, but all who could survive his insults thought the world of him.

(Christopher Longuet-Higgins, Emeritus Professor at Sussex)
Watch the Eyes says Wendy

Congratulations to Wendy Clements, an Experimental Psychology Lecturer in BIOLS, who reached the final in the Daily Telegraph/BASF Young Science Writer Awards 1998, with an article about the way in which young children develop the ability to guess what is going on in other people’s minds.

Interactions with other people depend on this sort of guessing game. Our guesses can be wrong, but ‘mental gambling’ is essential if we are to understand why someone behaves in a particular way and predict how he or she might behave in the future. Children below the age of four years find this very difficult, particularly when they have to guess about a situation in which a person believes something which the child knows not to be the case.

To investigate this, Wendy makes use of a character called Sam the mouse. Sam puts some cheese in a red box and then goes down the mouseloche to sleep. While he snoozes, Katie mouse arrives, takes the cheese and puts it into another box, coloured blue. Sam returns, ‘believing’ that the cheese is still in the red box although we know that it is now in the blue box. Where should Sam look? Three year old children are likely to ignore Sam’s belief and to say that he will look in the blue box where they know the cheese is. Nevertheless, monitoring eye movements shows that these same children look at the red box, as if they expect him to look there.

Their eye movements seem to reflect an earlier unconscious sensitivity to what goes on in the mind of others, which does not depend on language for its development. This may have implications for the development of remedial programmes for children with autism, a debilitating disorder which affects 10-14 children in 10,000. It is possible that, despite their difficulty in predicting the behaviour of others verbally, some children with autism nevertheless show the sensitivity expressed in anticipatory looking. These children may be more likely to benefit from programmes designed to teach the principles of this guessing game.

As a general principle, says Wendy, mind reading is gambling and it is important to watch the eyes.

Cyber Cafe continued

The Cyber Café arises out of the Mentoring Scheme, run by Psychological and Counselling Services, which exists to encourage students to aid their peers, encourage collaborative approaches to learning, and to provide accessible, user-friendly support to undergraduate and postgraduate students in an informal environment. The Assistive Technology Centre conceptualised the Cyber Café and was responsible for its development and design. As a consequence a special focus has been placed on the requirements of students with special needs.

The concept of peer support has been combined with the power of the Internet, the flexibility of e-mail and the co-operative atmosphere promoted by the Mentoring Scheme, as well as the need to create a searchable database of useful information. However the highest priority has been to make it all easy to use, and as accessible as possible, so that even a novice with little experience of the Internet would be able to interact with other users.

In order to reach prospective students before they arrive at Sussex, the Assistive Technology Centre is liaising with local sixth form colleges and FE colleges, thus increasing the number of people able to participate. To deal with the number of users, Student web mentors will be available to offer assistance and to answer questions that may otherwise be inaccessible. Finally it is hoped that the facility to host informal tutorials, seminars and workgroups could be utilised by tutors thus keeping everything dynamic and exciting.

For further information on the University of Sussex Cyber Café, run Internet Explorers or Netscape and enter the following address:
http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/ATC/cybercafe/entrance.htm

Thanksgiving Service for the Life of Jenny Pendlebury

Jenny died on the 25th June after a four year fight against cancer. A Service of Thanksgiving for Jenny’s life will be held in the Meeting House on Friday the 27th November 1998 at 2.30 pm.

All members of the University and family and friends are warmly invited to attend. Light refreshments will be provided afterwards at the Meeting House.

Research Funding Opportunities

This is a selection of Research Opportunities.
More details of these and other opportunities are available from the Research Grants and Contracts Office, ext. 3812. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFUND on the Research web site:
http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or UGIS Home Page under Research.

The EPSRC invites proposals under the extend quality of life (EQUAL) initiative with the theme of built environment and design for all. The collaborative research, by engineers, scientists and organisations that can bring the user perspective, will address the needs of people who require additional support to lead an active life. Two types of proposals: feasibility studies up to one year in length, with a value up to £50,000 and research projects of more than one year. Deadline 12 Jan 1998. [RF/vol.5/no.3]

The EPSRC invites proposals for the fifth round electronic materials and displays programmes. Key areas for research are: reduced power consumption; lighter weight displays; improved lifetimes and the understanding of degradation; better readability; light output; manufacturability; cost. Deadline 15 Jan 1998.

The Royal Society will provide approx. 30 university research fellowships, tenable for 5 years from October 1999. Appointments include all branches of natural science. Applicants must be between 26 and 40 and must have between 2 and 7 years post-doctoral experience. Deadline 22 Jan 1998.

The US National Institutes of Health invites applications for bioengineering research grants to support basic bioengineering research where the outcomes are likely to advance health or health-related research within the NIH. Areas of particular relevance are: biomechanics; bioprocessing; bioelectronics; clinical medicine; functional genomics; informatics and computational methods; cell and tissue engineering and drug bioavailability (not an exclusive list). No deadline.

The Wellcome Trust invites applications for five new four-year PhD research training programmes. Of particular interest are proposals for programmes in bioinformatics, and for multidisciplinary research training in any area of basic science related to medicine or veterinary medicine.

The EPSRC has announced a second call for proposals under the technological plasma initiative, a joint initiative between the physics, materials, general engineering and chemistry programmes. Deadline 15 Jan 1998.

The Nuffield Foundation invites applications for their undergraduate research bursary scheme. Undergraduates are funded for 6-10 weeks whilst they work in science research. Researchers in science, applied science, technology and medicine are eligible to apply on behalf of a named student. Deadline 3 Feb 1999.
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Saturday 21 November 11.00am - 5.00 pm
One Day Conference Examining the interplay between material and microeconomic and critical realism. Pre registration necessary, contact Peter Dickens ext 8893 for further details.

Monday 23rd November
12.30 pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Celia Hunt, Blocks to Writing: Research with Students of Creative Writing, D310.
1.00 pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Wendy Clemen, Synonyms, homonyms, and adjectives...is language really related to theory of mind? BLR.
2.00 pm International Relations and Politics Seminar: Beatriz Jahn, International relations and the state of nature: the cultural origins of a ruling ideology. D310.
4.00 pm Centre for Mathematical Analysis Seminar: I. McGillivray (Bristol), Low energy asymptotics of the scattering phase and large time behaviour of the pinned Weiner sausage. 2A2 PEVI.
4.00 pm Sociology and Social Psychology Seminar: Gerd Bohner (Kent), Proper problem or propaganda? Negative affect may increase or decrease productivity depending on its interpretation. D310.
4.30 pm Neuroscience Seminar Series: David Mann (Manchester), Molecular Pathology of Alzheimer’s Disease. BLR.
5.00 pm Women’s Studies Research-in-Progress Seminar: Maya Unnithan, Researching Reproductive Health in Rajasthan. D610.

Tuesday 24 November
12.30 pm Sussex Life History Research Network: Brian Roberts (Huddersfield), Biographical research and the life of the researcher. Mass Observation Archive.
1.00 pm AUT General Meeting: Workloads: Towards less to do More and Better. William Locke and others. Arts C133.
2.15 pm Sussex European Institute Research-in-Progress Seminar: Eva Oestergaard-Neilsen (St Anthony’s College), Diasporapolitics: The Case Transrate Political Activities of Immigrants and refugees from Turkey living in Germany. A71, SEI.
4.00 pm COGS Seminar: Henry Plotkin (UCL), Evolution and Culture. COGS SCI1.
4.15 pm Biochemistry and Genetics and Development Seminar: John Walker (Cambridge), ATP synthesis by rotary catalysis. BLT.
5.00 pm Media Studies Graduate Seminar: Manuel Alvarado, Publishing, media studies and the media. D710.
5.00 pm Social Anthropology Graduate/Faculty Seminar: Robert Gibb (University of Central Lancashire), The Continuing Appeal of the Republic? Some Problems in Mobilising Anti-Racism in Contemporary France. D722.
5.15 pm German Research Colloquium: Cathy Gelbin, Victim-Perpetrator - Bystander? The Case of Germany. Writer Elisabeth Langgassser (1899-1950), A155.

Wednesday 25 November
2.00 pm Queery Lecture: Jennifer Doyle (Sweeetbriar) Reading for Sex/Reading Against Plot: Boredom, Sexuality and Aesthetics. D722
5.00 pm English Graduate Colloquium: David Patterson (Open University), Oxford, Black Oxford. D640.

Thursday 26 November
1.00 pm MSF Branch Meeting will be held in Pevensey 2A3. There will be a speaker from the Brighton Employment Centre.
4.00 pm Laboratory of Experimental Psychology: Gareth Gaskell (MRC APU Cambridge), Phonological and lexical ambiguity in speech perception. BLR.
4.00 pm Geography Research Seminar: Julian Morton, Fluid observations and laboratory modelling of periglacial invasions. D340.
5.00 pm French Thought Seminar: Ulrich Haase (Manchester Institute for Learning in Law), Merleau-Ponty, Phenomenology and Psychoanalysis. A71.
5.00 pm Sussex Development Lecture: Jim Skea, Climate change: can a global strategy work? A1.
5.00 pm History Work-in-Progress: Robert Tombs (Cambridge), Women and violence in the Paris commune. A155.
6.00 pm Centre for Statistics and Stochastic Modelling Seminar (RSSLG): Fred Smith (Southampton), 100 years of sampling and surveys. Room 321 Watts Building, University of Brighton (Moulsecomb site).

Friday 27 November
2.00 pm SPRU Seminar: Sally Wyatt (University of East London), Technology and Inequality: Metaphors of the Internet and Social Exclusion. EDB Lecture Theatre.
4.00 pm Chemical Physics and Materials Seminar: Tim Wright (Southampton), Experimental and ad initio studies of NO-containing complexes, and their cations. CHI 3R241 (M53).

Friday 27 November 9.30 am - 5.00 pm Conference on European Political Economy Workshop on Structural and Microeconomic Aspects of Transition/Enhancement Sussex European Institute, Room A71.

Small Ads
Small Ads are placed free of charge. We will always try to display them in the earliest edition but cannot guarantee this - 20 words or less please.

TO LET: for short term breaks on self catering basis. 1 b/room balcony flat on Brighton seashore. Stylishly furnished. Weekly rent £140 to include all bills (ex phone). Would suit visiting lecturer. Contact Norma Binnie 542736.

TO LET: Pleasant studio flat in Lewes, ideal for one, available until the end of March. £85 p.w. including bills. Tel: 01273-476813.

AVAILABLE: Secretary (Sussex Graduate) with fully equipped office at home undertakes typing of reports, dissertations, essays, etc. All work done on PC with Word 98 Programme. Dictaphone facilities available for taped work. Contact Alex 701148.

HOGS REQUIRED: for three baby Guinean pigs, preferably together. They are well-behaved, are very good at lawn trimming and incredibly cute. Please contact Doreen, email D.Du Boulay@sussex.ac.uk X3823.

TO LET: Unfurnished Regency first floor seafront flat in Lewes Crescent. Huge drawing room with balcony overlooking sea and private gardens, plus kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and large rear terrace. Available Dec/Jan, £650 p.m. Contact Pete Saunders, ext 8883, email P.R.Saunders@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Macintosh LC II. 8Mb RAM, 140Mb HD. Operating system 7.1. 14" Apple colour monitor, keyboard and microphone. External PSI 2400bps fax/modem. Full working order, original manuals and complete sets of system and fax/modem software disks. £120. Internal ext 8021.

WANTED: Pair of brightly coloured slippettoed shoes, size 7, required for my daughter’s part in school panto as an ‘ugly sister’, ext 2668.

TO LET: Spacious, sunny two-bedroom flat above Preston Park, with garden. GCH, W/machine & D/washer, etc. Avail 1 Dec 99-28th April 99. £125 per week, + utilities. Tel: Anne Marie or Rob on 562698.

FLAT TO LET: 3 bedroom first floor flat near Preston Park. Partly furnished. Avail mid-Dec, preferably for at least 1 year. Postgrad or faculty only, non-smoking, £600 pcm. Call 01483-267148 (even) or e-mail H.E.Carr@sussex.ac.uk.

TO LET: 2 single bedroom lower ground floor flat - Upper Lewes Rd; small garden; £500 pcm; available 3rd week of Nov. Contact Jane on 671820 or email: j.m.monaghan@sussex.ac.uk.

WANTED: Flat or house-share from Jan 99. Postgrad research student at SPRU. Central location. Please call ext 3554 or email g.m.marcell@sussex.ac.uk.

FOR SALE: Renault 11 TXE 1.7 litre, 1987, gold, MOT till Feb, 105000 miles, central locking, electric windows, radio, 5 doors, good running, £700. Email A.P.Azevedo@sussex.ac.uk.


FOR SALE: VW Golf GTI MK1 (white), 1983 A-REG, 125000 miles. £1100.00 ONO, 1 prev owner, good bodywork, alarm, stereo, new exhaust and clutch. MOT 30 Apr 99 TAX 29 Feb 99 Last major service April 98, Reluctant sell as owner moving overseas. Tel: 678419 (or x8419), email:a.lappas@sussex.ac.uk.

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday during term time with copy deadlines the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads from staff and students of the University.

Please contact the Information Office in Sussex House on Ext. 8209 or Email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.