

Cardiff University, School of Music:

Ethnomusicology is an integral part of Cardiff's vibrant School of Music which has a large student base and an impressive list of world-leading academic staff. The school provides undergraduate modules in Ethnomusicology from first year with the opportunity for students to complete a dissertation in the discipline in their third year. The school also boasts five postgraduate taught pathways (Ethnomusicology, Musicology, Composition, Performance and Music, Culture and Politics) with the option of taking courses across music disciplines. Cardiff also offers PhD opportunities in Ethnomusicology.

Undergraduate Modules in Ethnomusicology:

Year 1: Ethnomusicology I (Music in Human Life)

In this module, students will be introduced to some of the key theories of ethnomusicological enquiry and the discipline's historical development. Here students will be encouraged to consider music's place as an integral part of the human condition through an exploration of various musical traditions including Celtic music and music of the Middle East. **Lecturer Dr John O'Connell.**

Year 2: Ethnomusicology II (Music in a Cross-Cultural Perspective)

In this module, students are introduced to a number of analytical approaches to ethnomusicological enquiry. By focusing on the musical traditions of Africa and the African diaspora, students will explore music's relationship with theoretical issues such as identity, politics, colonialism and nationalism. **Lecturer Dr Amanda Villepastour**

Year 3: Project in Ethnomusicology

In this module, students will have the opportunity to pursue their own academic interests through the submission of a 10,000 word dissertation guided by ethnomusicological fieldwork. Students will be introduced to the techniques necessary for ethnomusicological research including ethnography, transcription, analysis, interviews, ethics and technology throughout the year, and will then be required to conduct their own research in a specific area. **Supervised by both ethnomusicologists.**

Taught Masters Modules in Ethnomusicology:

The MA pathway in Ethnomusicology provides a coherent programme in ethnomusicological study by looking at music from an anthropological perspective and by allowing students to study a wide range of musical traditions in different cultural contexts. Especially appealing to students with a background in music and/or anthropology, the programme includes a final project in the form of a dissertation, involving where possible a period of field research.

MA Research Skills

Methods in Ethnomusicology: in this module, students are introduced to the key techniques of ethnomusicological field research including ethnography, transcription, analysis, interviews, ethics and technology. In order to apply these skills, students will be required to complete a portfolio of fieldwork assignments.

Anthropology of Music: this module provides students with a thorough grounding of the theoretical principles that guide Ethnomusicology, including an historical overview of the discipline's development. Particular attention will be paid to the different strands of anthropological theory that have informed ethnomusicological enquiry.

The World of Music: This module provides students with an analytical overview of the music of Africa.

Music and Discourse: In this module students will explore some of the methodological problems associated with musical discourse. Here students will be introduced to different methods associated with ethnomusicological enquiry including hermeneutics, structuralism and post- structuralism. There is a regional emphasis on the Middle East in this course.

Dissertation & viva voce: this module provides students with the opportunity to pursue an in-depth study into a musical tradition of their choice. This will normally involve a period of field research where students apply the methodological techniques acquired in semester one. The research will be presented in the form of a 20,000 word (circa) dissertation. Following submission, students will be required to attend a *viva voce*.

Postgraduate Research Opportunities:

Prospective students (both for MPhil and PhD) are able to undertake postgraduate research in Musicology with an emphasis in Ethnomusicology. The text of a PhD thesis will normally not exceed 80,000 words (excluding bibliographies and appendices). For more information on postgraduate research courses please contact Elizabeth Pengilly (see other contacts below).

Ethnomusicologists at Cardiff:

Dr John Morgan O'Connell (Programme Director):

Dr O'Connell is a graduate of Oxford University, the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the University of California (Los Angeles) where he completed his PhD in Ethnomusicology on Turkish music. He has taught at various institutions including Otago University, The University of Limerick, The Queen's University of Belfast and Brown University, amongst others. His research focuses on the musical traditions of the Middle East and Central Asia, with a secondary area of expertise in the musical traditions of Europe. Additionally, his research is informed by hermeneutic theory, post-structuralism and historical ethnography. His publications concern in principle the musical traditions of the Islamic world. He is the principal editor of the volume entitled: *Music and Conflict* (Illinois UP, 2010) and author of many articles on Middle Eastern and Central Asian topics. He is at present completing a monograph on music in Turkey and editing a collection of essays on music in the Persianate world.

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Dr Amanda Villepastour:

Dr Amanda Villepastour is a graduate of University of Western Australia (BMus, composition) and The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London where she completed her PhD in 2006. Her research interests include the music of Africa and its diaspora (with a focus on the Yorùbá), gender, organology and linguistics. She draws upon a number of disciplinary perspectives including religious studies, popular music and linguistics. Alongside her academic positions (including two post-doctoral fellowships at The School of Oriental Studies and The Smithsonian Institution), Dr Villepastour has also worked as a curator at The Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix Arizona and as keyboardist in the popular music industry, having worked with artists such as Boy George and Billy Bragg. Her publications include the monograph *Ancient Text Messages of the Yorùbá Bata Drum: Cracking the Code* (Ashgate, 2010), a study of the drum's speech surrogacy system and the book *Wood that Talks: Transatlantic Perspectives on the Orisha of Drumming* (forthcoming, University Press of Mississippi), a multi-disciplinary edited collection about a transatlantic religious drumming tradition.

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Other Contacts:

For more information on undergraduate courses please contact Sue Sheridan (undergraduate administrator):

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For more information on postgraduate courses please contact Elizabeth Pengilly (postgraduate administrator):

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