

Royal Holloway, University of London

Ethnomusicology is a vibrant and integral aspect of teaching and research at Royal Holloway, which aims to foster a rich, broad, integrated and open-minded approach to music studies. The Music Department, which was rated top department in the UK in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, benefits from one of the largest concentrations of ethnomusicologists in the country with areas of expertise focused on the Americas (including the Caribbean), the Mediterranean, Middle East, Northern Europe and its Arctic regions, South Asia, East Asia, Tibet, China, and Singapore. Courses in ethnomusicological and world music topics are offered at all levels and provide a wide range of opportunities to draw on staff research expertise.

Type of Programmes

BMus Degree in Music

BA Joint Degree in Music and another subject (wide range of options)

MMus in Advanced Musical Studies

MPhil/PhD

Description of Individual Modules

Undergraduate

The BMus Degree in Music (or BA if joint with another subject) offers many opportunities to develop ethnomusicological interests. Courses include:

First year 'flexible core' courses which include major world / ethnomusicological music components (usually around 40-50 students):

- *Introduction to World Music*
- *Creative Ensemble Performance*
- *Contemporary Debates in Music*

Second or Third year option courses – the selection offered varies from year to year (15-25 students; 15 for performance options):

- *Studies in Ethnomusicology* (flexible core: offered every year)
- *Music, Media and Technology* (flexible core: offered every year)
- *Traditional Music of the Andes* (Henry Stobart)
- *Music in the Nordic and Finno-Ugric World* (Tina K. Ramnarine)
- *Musics of China* (Shzr Ee Tan)
- *Music of the Mediterranean – Oral Traditions* (Henry Stobart)
- *Hearing the Orient: Critical and Practical Approaches to the Middle East* (Rachel Beckles Willson)
- *Music, Power and Politics* (Anna Morcom)
- *Orchestras around the World* (Tina K. Ramnarine)
- *Popular Music of Latin America* (Geoff Baker)
- *Ensemble Performance in Sundanese Gamelan* (Simon Cook)
- *Ensemble Performance in Andean Music* (Henry Stobart)

- *From Rumba to Reggaeton: Latin American Popular Music in Transnational Perspective* (Geoff Baker)
- *Sounds and Cultures of East Asia* (Shzr Ee Tan)
- *Intercultural Performance* (Rachel Beckles Willson)
- *Bollywood Music in Context* (Anna Morcom)
- *Music, Environment and Ecology* (Henry Stobart)

Third year option course:

- *Special Study Dissertation* (ethnomusicological topics/ethnographic approaches)

Postgraduate

The MMus in Advanced Musical Studies programme offer a full range of options course in Ethnomusicology. These include:

- *Techniques in Ethnomusicology*
- *Topics in World Music*
- *Music of the Americas* (in collaboration with UCL *Institute of the Americas*)
- *Documenting Performance* (students document the process of learning to perform a previously unfamiliar instrument or vocal style)
- *Special Study Dissertation* (15,00 words. 40% of programme)

MPhil/PhD: Ethnomusicological research topics are warmly encouraged as part of the department's large doctoral programme and vibrant postgraduate community.

Performance options

Students are able to participate in World Music Performance either as part of their coursework or as an extracurricular activity. Regular ensembles include:

- **Andean Band** (led by Henry Stobart) – the department houses one of the largest working collections of Andean instruments in Europe. This ensemble performs on wide array of different forms of panpipes, flutes, drums and guitars, and gives regular public performances, sometimes in collaboration with Andean musicians.
- **Sundanese Gamelan** (led by Simon Cook) – the department's dedicated set of gamelan instruments *Gamelan Puloganti* was imported from Java in 2004. The ensemble gives regular public performances, sometimes in combination with *Wayang* (puppetry) – collaborating with Matthew Cohen of Royal Holloway's Drama & Theatre Department (an expert of world puppetry traditions).
- **Korean Drumming Ensemble** (led by Shzr Ee Tan) - extracurricular
- **Balkan Ensemble** (led by Thomas Wagner) - extracurricular

Staff

Geoff Baker (Reader) specialises in the musical traditions of Latin America and has published research on Cuban popular music and Peruvian colonial music. His current research projects focus on childhood musical learning in Venezuela and Cuba, El Sistema (Venezuela) and Digital Cumbia in Argentina.

Rachel Beckles Willson (Professor) has focused on music and politics in Eastern Europe, Palestine and Israel, most recently in *Orientalism and Musical Mission: Palestine and the*

West. Her current work is performance-led, and engages with multi-sensorial and relational questions of ethnography within research on Arab and Turkish musics today.

Anna Morcom (Lecturer) has published the first book by an ethnomusicologist on Indian Bollywood film music as well as work on Tibetan musical culture, and is currently involved in a major research project on the sociology of popular dance in India.

Tina K. Ramnarine (Professor) has interests in music, politics and environment and has published extensively on music in the Nordic countries and the Caribbean. She has acted as Chair of the *British Forum for Ethnomusicology* and editor of *Ethnomusicology Forum*. Currently, she co-convenes the RHUL Postcolonial Research Group.

Henry Stobart (Reader) specialises in the music of Latin America and has published widely on the rural musics of the Bolivian Andes, with recent work focusing on indigenous music video production, the impact of digital technology and music 'piracy'. He is a committee member of the *British Forum for Ethnomusicology* and founder/organiser of the UK *Latin American Music Seminar*.

Shzr Ee Tan (Lecturer) specialises on aspects of music and media and has published on Amis aboriginal folksong (Taiwan) and new media platforms in the Chinese diaspora.

Simon Cook (Honorary Associate), is a leading UK authority on Sundanese Gamelan Performance.

The research and teaching environment of the department as a whole (which counts 18 academic staff) fosters global, integrated and multi-disciplinary approaches to the study of music. A range of collaborations also exist across departments (for example with Drama and Theatre, which runs a Noh Theatre and hosts the *Indigeneity in the Contemporary World: Performance, Politics, Belonging* project).

Financial Support

Royal Holloway offers a range bursaries and scholarships for undergraduate students: <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Prospective-Students/finance/index.html> in addition to special choral and instrumental scholarships. Opportunities for international undergraduates include the Royal Holloway International Excellent Scholarships. At postgraduate level, various Masters studentships are available and the Reid and Thomas Holloway Scholarship for doctoral study.
<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/studyhere/postgraduate/feesandfunding/home.aspx>

Further Information

Royal Holloway Music Department Website:

<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Music/>

Undergraduate admissions enquiries: Dr Henry Stobart h.stobart@rhul.ac.uk

Postgraduate admissions enquiries: Dr Anna Morcom anna.morcom@rhul.ac.uk

Last Updated: April 2013