

Emmanuelle Olivier's 'Damara-Nama' recordings and their return to Sesfontein, Namibia

In March 2022 a full set of digital copies of recordings of 'Damara-Nama' musics now archived in the British Library was returned to the Indigenous rights holders in Sesfontein, north-west Namibia. These recordings were made in 1999 by French ethnomusicologist Emmanuelle Olivier, assisted by the late Minette Mans, an ethnomusicology...

Why do hammer-headed fruit bats honk?

The Hammer-headed Fruit Bat (*Hypsignathus monstrosus*) is the largest of the African bats. Named for its unusual appearance, this species is a classic example of sexual dimorphism at work, with males and females displaying significant differences in both size and appearance. While females are smaller and possess the familiar fruit...

Recording of the week: Laughing hyaenas

This week's post comes from Cheryl Tipp, Wildlife and Environmental Sounds Curator. Above: Photo of a Spotted Hyaena by DJM Photos. From Flickr. Although it may sound like it, the Spotted Hyaenas in this recording are not suffering from a fit of the giggles. Their laughter-like calls actually express feelings...

Recording of the week: Sharing Somali

sounds and stories

This week's selection comes from Emma Brinkhurst, Learning and Engagement Coordinator. As Learning and Engagement Coordinator for the British Library's Unlocking Our Sound Heritage programme, a highlight of my role has been working in partnership with Camden Somali Cultural Centre to develop a listening project. Weekly listening sessions showed the...

Recording of the week: 'Kuli milimo', there is work in the house of the Lord

This week's selection comes from Edoardo Marcarini, Audio Project Cataloguer for Unlocking our Sound Heritage. Inspired by the festive atmosphere, I bring you not one but two recordings this week. These are meant to be appreciated together just like the turkey and gravy some people will have indulged themselves with...