

## Recording of the Week: a princess cannot eat stew

*This week's selection comes from Niamh Dillon, National Life Stories Project Interviewer.*

Prue Leith is well known to television viewers of the *Great British Menu*. She started her career as a chef and restaurateur in London. In this extract from a longer recording with Niamh Dillon for [\*Food: From Source to Salespoint\*](#), recorded in 2008, she recalls a surprise visit from Princess Margaret. Her request for pheasant stew caused considerable consternation in the kitchen resulting in a fire, a singed jacket and a spilt pot of coffee. If only VIP's knew what happens behind the scenes!

[Prue Leith and Princess Margaret C821/202](#)



*Prue Leith*

*(courtesy Paul Tozier)*

The full interview with Prue Leith can be found in [Food](#), an online collection of oral history recordings that chart the extraordinary changes which transformed the production, manufacture and consumption of food in 20th-century Britain.

Follow [@BL\\_OralHistory](#) and [@soundarchive](#) for all the latest news.

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## Recording of the week: choosing dreadlocks

*This week's selection comes from Holly Gilbert, Cataloguer of Digital Multimedia Collections.*

Mother and daughter, Jan and Ama, talk about why they both have dreadlocks. This is the first time they have told each other their reasons for choosing to wear their hair in this way and their motivations are quite different, though Jan's hair definitely inspired Ama's choice and they both really like the way that dreadlocks look and feel. They discuss how other people react to their hair and how this makes them feel as well as how their hair connects with their self-identity, their appearance and their blackness. Later in the conversation they talk about how fighting for racial and gender equality has evolved over time and is different for their respective generations, how their hair is part of being active in those fights and how choosing dreadlocks is a way of defining their own idea of beauty.

[The Listening Project\\_Choosing dreadlocks](#)



This recording is part of [The Listening Project](#), an audio archive of conversations recorded by the BBC and archived at the British Library. The full conversation between Jan and Ama can be found [here](#).

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## Recording of the week: Wioletta Greg reads her poetry

*This week's selection comes from Stephen Cleary, Lead Curator of Literary & Creative Recordings.*

Polish poet and writer Wioletta Greg has attracted critical praise for her coming-of-age tale *Swallowing Mercury*, which was published in January this year by Portobello Books. For this week's 'Recording of the Week' we offer a unique recording of Wioletta reading her poetry, made by the British Library in 2012 at the poet's home on the Isle of Wight. The reading is in Polish, with English translations made and read by Marek Kazmierski.

[Wioletta Greg reading\\_C1340/79](#)



This recording is part of [Between Two Worlds: Poetry and Translation](#), an ongoing Arts Council-funded audio recording project conducted by the British Library in collaboration with the poet Amarjit Chandan.

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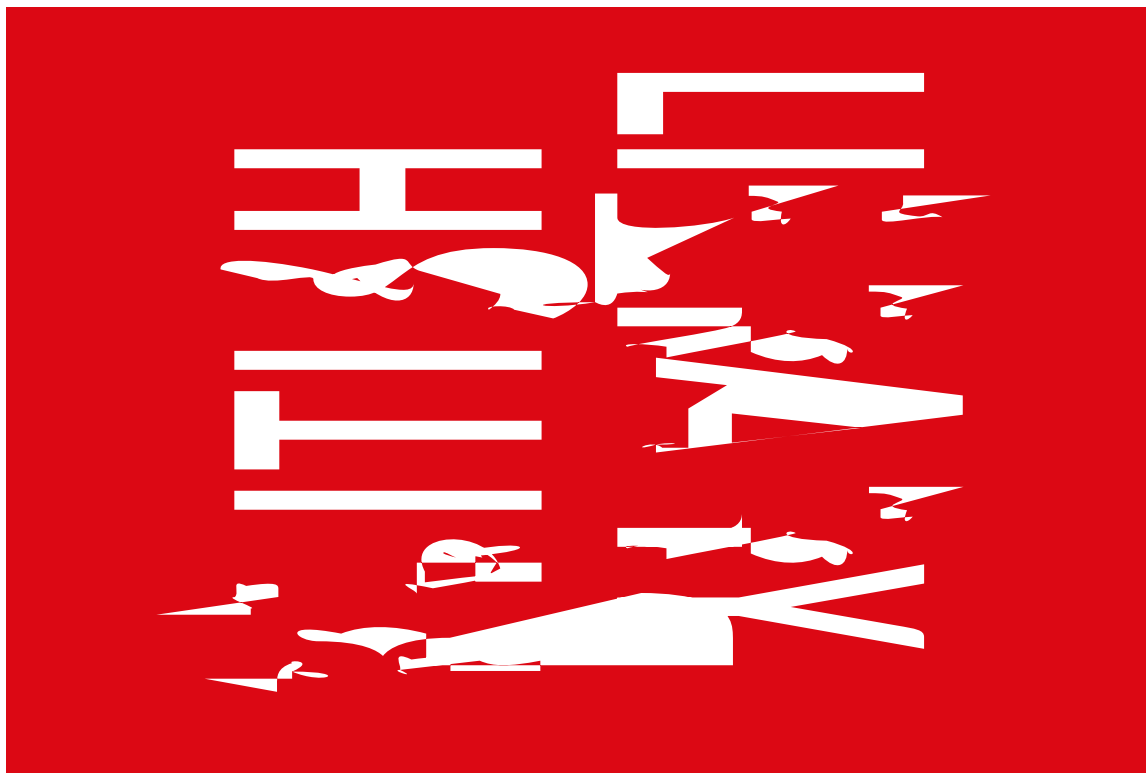
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## Recording of the week: Himba women's songs from Namibia

*This week's selection comes from Dr Janet Topp Fargion, Lead Curator of World and Traditional Music.*

This is an 'ondjongo' song sung by a group of Himba women, recorded in 1998 by French ethnomusicologist Emmanuelle Olivier (BL reference [C1709](#)). The recording was made within the French-Namibian project "Living Music and Dance of Namibia" (1998-2000) directed by Minette Mans (University of Namibia), Emmanuelle Olivier (CNRS, France) and Hervé Rivière (CNRS, France).

[Ondjongo song sung by Himba women](#)



The Himba, from the northern part of Namibia, very close to the border with Angola, are well known for their elaborate hairstyles, using copious amounts of lush, orange ochre – which helps to protect them from the scorching sun. Hair cutting ceremonies are significant markers of life cycle events, being performed, for example, for naming ceremonies or in celebrations connected with girls' first menstruation and marriage.

(Photo: Emmanuelle Olivier, 1990)

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## Recording of the week: language and identity

*This week's selection comes from Jonnie Robinson, Lead Curator of Spoken English.*

This short exchange during a conversation between two young females talking about life and relationships offers a fascinating glimpse into how our linguistic choices reflect our identity. One of the speakers, a British Muslim, uses the phrase bringing home the bacon which instantly sparks off giggles as, culturally and linguistically, it somehow encapsulates her reflections on her joint British and Muslim identity. The phrase she chooses could not be more quintessentially English – the first citation recorded in the Oxford English Dictionary is from the 1924 PG Wodehouse novel, *Ukridge*.

## [Bringing home the bacon](#)



participants

Photograph of

This extract is taken from the [Listening Project](#) – a collection of over 1000 conversations contributed by members of the public on a variety of topics of their own choosing. Listen to the full conversation between Afshan and Olivia [here](#).

Follow [@soundarchive](#) for all the latest news.