

International research collaboration on South Asian audiovisual heritage

In March this year the British Library began a new research project with the Archives and Research Center for Ethnomusicology American Institute of Indian Studies (ARCE) in India, focused around our South Asian audiovisual heritage collections. Funded through a grant from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the...

Recording of the week: a Mute Swan's heart

This week's selection comes from Greg Green, Audio Project Cataloguer for Unlocking our Sound Heritage. There are hundreds of thousands of recordings of birds in the sound archive, but not all are of the typical songs and calls we would expect. I have come across recordings of wingbeats (swans, pigeons,...

Make yourself at home! The BBC in a multi-cultural world

David Hendy writes about an upcoming event at the British Library, Britain Reimagined: A New Oral History of the BBC.

London dialect in pop music

Jonnie Robinson, Lead Curator for Spoken English writes: The mixed reception among my children and their peers to Arctic Monkeys' sixth studio album, Tranquility Base Hotel + Casino, is, I suspect, the equivalent of my Kid A moment. I'm probably not qualified to contribute to the debate on the album's...

Recording of the week: the orchestral power of embroidery machines

This week's selection comes from Lucia Cavorsi, Audio Project Cataloguer for Unlocking our Sound Heritage. Serious/Speakout was a UK promotion company to which artists submitted their demo tapes when seeking performance opportunities during the 1990s. This particular recording features an excerpt of Concerto for Percussion and Embroidery Machine. It world...