

Banned in South Africa: Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

It is hard to imagine a set of circumstances in which the possession of a vinyl record of a Christian minister would be illegal. But this did happen, and not so long ago. The year was 1966; the country was South Africa; and the speaker was Dr Martin Luther King...

'Using your eyes as a pen' – Black British Poets in Performance

By Dr Hannah Silva, British writer and performer and Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow at Queen Mary, University of London. Paula Varjack selfie. "What you actually do is you use your eyes as a pen," David J is telling me how he learned to freestyle, "off the dome." We're sitting...

Recording of the week: Discovering Sibelius

This week's selection comes from Jonathan Summers, Curator of Classical Music Recordings. Working at home has allowed me to listen to a lot more music than I normally would. One advantage is the opportunity to get to know areas of classical music that are unfamiliar. For me, one of those...

The sounds of Autumn

Cheryl Tipp, Curator of Wildlife & Environmental Sounds writes: The days are getting shorter, the leaves are turning colour and there starts to be a definite chill in the air. These changes all point to one thing – the glorious season of Autumn. Countryside in Autumn (Image by Hans Braxmeier...

Young for Eternity: Unlocking Our Sound Heritage preserves the Subways' Glastonbury demo

Written by Nina Webb-Bourne, Communications Intern for UOSH. On 28 March I was supposed to be going to the O2 Forum in Kentish Town to see the Subways, an English rock band, with my sister. However, all live music was effectively cancelled as we entered into a national lockdown five...