

What's that? Surely music – The Gerald Cavanagh Collection

Magid El-Bushra with the Gerald Cavanagh Collection By Edison Fellow Magid El-Bushra, counter-tenor and Assistant Content Producer at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden Sudanese boys growing up in Willesden Green tend not to fall in love with opera. But an encounter with Miloš Forman's classic film Amadeus was to...

Recording of the week: Toscanini and Beethoven

This week's selection comes from Jonathan Summers, Curator of Classical Music Recordings. Arturo Toscanini was famous for his outbursts of temper on the rostrum and ruled his orchestras with a rod of iron. His style is well suited to heroic music and one of his best interpretations is of Beethoven's...

Open House 2018 – Alexandra Road Estate, Camden

This weekend is Open House and one of the highlights is the Alexandra Road Estate, which features heavily in the British Library oral history collections.

Seeing sound: What is a spectrogram?

Greg Green, Audio Project Cataloguer for Unlocking our Sound Heritage writes: In this digital age, most of us are familiar with audio waveforms, the 'wavy' images that represent the dynamic course of a particular sound recording. Waveforms are in fact a type of graph, with time on the X axis...

Recording of the week: Whistling to the bujok – Batek fishing techniques

Coleridge Research Fellow Dr Alice Rudge writes: The Batek are a hunting and gathering people who dwell in the lowland rainforests of Peninsular Malaysia. When visiting recently, I accompanied Batek friends on a fishing trip and was taught some new techniques. We left early in the morning, as the river...