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: 'Reggae Fi May Ayim' by Linton Kwesi Johnson

This week's post comes from Daisy Chamberlain, Preservation Assistant for Unlocking Our Sound Heritage. Linton Kwesi Johnson was born in Chapelton, Jamaica in 1952. His mother, Sylvena, migrated to Britain just before Jamaica gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1962, and Linton followed three years later, aged 11. His...

Recording of the week: 'Wayn tkhallini' by Iraq's Rashid al-Qundarji

This week's post comes from Hazem Jamjoum, Audio Curator for the British Library Qatar Foundation Partnership Programme. Rashīd al-Qundarjī (1886-1945) was one of the early recording artists of Iraq's Maqam repertoire. In musical contexts, the Arabic word maqam usually denotes melodic and rhythmic modes. In Iraq, however, the word is...

'Jiune Rahara' / Desire to live

Rahul Giri was one of our Resonations artists-in-residence during 2022. The Resonations artist residency programme is generously supported by the British

Council. Also known as _RHL, Rahul Giri is a producer and DJ based in Bangalore, India. While studying broadcast journalism, Rahul became one half of the duo Sulk Station,...

Recording of the week: 'Rooms above pubs: a nexus of free improvisation'

This week's post comes from Tom Jackson, Workflow Support Officer for Unlocking our Sound Heritage. Rooms above pubs have played a prominent role in the development of the UK's free improvisation scene. The Horse Improvised Music Club began organising events above the Horse pub in Waterloo, before moving to the...