

Phil Alexander CV: academic & music

CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

Teaching Fellow in Performance, University of Edinburgh

EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Ethnomusicology (awarded August 2017)
Department of Music, SOAS, University of London
Supported by full AHRC Studentship
- 2012 MMus, Ethnomusicology (distinction awarded in all units)
Department of Music, SOAS, University of London
- 1998 BMus (Hons), Music (First Class Honours)
Department of Music, Goldsmiths College, University of London
- 1993 BA (Hons), Cultural Studies (2:1) Sheffield Hallam University

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph *Sounding Jewish in Berlin: klezmer music and the contemporary city*
2022 Oxford University Press.

Book chapters

- 2022 “Klezmer and urban scenes” in the *Oxford Handbook of Jewish Music*, ed. Tina Fruhauf (Oxford University Press).
- 2018 “Salsa Celtica’s Great Scottish Latin Adventure: an insider’s view”
in *Understanding Scotland Musically*, eds. McKerrell & West (Ashgate).

Refereed journals

- Jan 2020 “‘It’s not a specific klezmer thing, it’s a specific me thing’”: Tradition and expression in Berlin’s klezmer accordion community” *Ethnomusicology* Vol 64 (1).
- Apr 2018 “‘Our city of love and of slaughter’: Berlin klezmer and the politics of place”.
Ethnomusicology Forum Vol 27 (1).
- Nov 2018 “Sounding the Holocaust, Silencing the City: Memorial soundscapes in today’s Berlin”. *Cultural Studies* Vol 36 (3).
- Nov 2019 “Narratives of Here and Elsewhere in Scottish Cantorial Music”.
Shofar: an Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies Vol 37 (3).

Co-edited collections

- Autumn 2019 “Narrative Spaces at the Margins of Jewish Culture”, *Shofar* special issue, edited by Phil Alexander, Hannah Holtschneider and Mia Spiro. Including co-written Introduction

RADIO

- Summer 2023 *I Belong to Glazgoy*. BBC Radio 4 documentary, scripted and presented by Phil and based on Phil’s British Academy postdoctoral research. Also selected for R4 Pick of the Week

MUSIC

- 2002 onwards—
Pianist, bandleader, composer and driving-force behind Moishe’s Bagel, 5-piece playing contemporary klezmer and world folk music. Regular concerts at most major UK venues (Sage Gateshead, St George’s Bristol, Jazz Cafe, Edinburgh Queens Hall, York NCEM). *Songlines* Top of the World & *Sunday Telegraph* Top 10 World Albums 2010. BBC Radio sessions: In Tune, World on 3, Cerys Matthews, Global Gathering.

Pianist and accordionist with other highly successful long-running UK world-music projects, e.g.: English folk singer Eliza Carthy; Norma Waterson's award-winning Gift Band; Salsa Celtica, Firelight Trio. Pianist and composer with Scotland's wide-ranging and adventurous chamber group Mr McFall's Chamber (Performers of the Year 2018, Scottish Awards for New Music).

Composition commissions

2022 *Come All Ye: a celebration of immigrant musical life in Scotland*, Edinburgh Tradfest May 2
2017 *Among Others: 200 Years of Jewish Lives in Edinburgh*. Netherbow Theatre, Edinburgh 2017
2015 Full score for the silent film *Salt for Svanetia* (funded by Creative Scotland and commissioned by Hippodrome Festival of Silent Film)
2015 Development work on the score for Clark Middleton's *Milonga*.
2013 Album commission for Mr McFall's Chamber ("Notango")
2010 Two original compositions arranged for small orchestra by the Northern Ballet Theatre.
2009 Music for *Misha's Story* and *Russian Fairytale* promotion for Love's Bridge Charity (Perm, Siberia)
2004 Touring commission for Mr McFall's Chamber ("The Wisps of Ardisht")
2001 Album commission for Just East of Jazz ("Dance of the Hayseeds")

Selected recordings

2022 *Firelight Trio*, Firelight Trio
2022 *Queen of the Whirl*, Eliza Carthy and the Restitution
2020 *Dreamweaver*, Adam Holmes
2020 *Through That Sound (My Secret Was Made Known)*, Eliza Carthy & Ben Seal
2017 *The Gift Band* featuring Norma Waterson, Eliza Carthy & Martin Carthy
2016 *Maria de Buenos Aires (Astor Piazzolla)*, Mr McFall's Chamber feat. Victor Villena
2015 *Salt for Svanetia, new score*, Moishe's Bagel
2013 *La Pasionaria*, Mr McFall's Chamber
2014 *The Tall Islands*, Salsa Celtica
2010 *Michael Marra*, Mr McFall's Chamber
2010 *Uncle Roland's Flying Machine*, Moishe's Bagel
2008 *El Camino*, Salsa Celtica
2007 *Salt*, Moishe's Bagel
2005 *La Zucca Barucca*, Tangalgo piano trio
2004 *Don't Spare the Horses*, Moishe's Bagel
2000 *The Music of Astor Piazzolla (original piano arrangements)*, Phil Alexander

AWARDS HELD

2021-2023 AHRC/BBC Forgotten Composers Scheme, representing Isaac Hirshow (1883-1956)
2019-2023 British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship
2018 University of Glasgow: Knowledge Exchange Fund; Chancellor's Fund Award; Scottish History Endowment travel award
2017 Association for Jewish Studies, travel award
2013-15 AHRC Studentship (full fees plus living stipend)
2013-15 Jewish Music Institute Mildred Loss Studentship

OTHER RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

1997-2001 Researcher & analyst for Semiotic Solutions, a small ground-breaking market and social research company. Leading focus groups; analysis of ads, packaging and wider cultural discourse; full debrief presentations to marketing departments; production of management summaries.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Musicians' Union, MCPS, PRS, PPL, British Forum for Ethnomusicology