

Editorial

This issue of *Music and Arts in Action*, an open-access peer-reviewed journal published by the SocArts Research Group of the University of Exeter, UK, brings three new articles. Whilst dealing with different topics, they all highlight the importance of the arts in social life.

Josh Wodak, in *Popular Music & Depopulated Species: Probing life at the limits in song and science*, explores how pop music makes us aware of environmental issues, using examples such as *Strawberry Fields Forever* by The Beatles, *Song for the Blue Ocean: Encounters Along the World's Coasts* by Safina, and several songs by Radiohead. Wodak relates the lyrics, music, and music videos of the songs to environmental issues that the public became aware of at the time the songs were written. Underlying this analysis is the idea of a reminiscence of a childhood that was beautiful, where the environment was healthier than it is today, which needs to be remembered when facing today's environmental issues.

In *Music Mirrors: Practice-based reflections on the development and uses of audio biographical cues to support people living with dementia and other long-term conditions*, Heather Edwards writes about her Music Mirrors project with which people can help their loved ones at an early stage of memory loss. The author portrays observations from her practical experience with people living with dementia, where simple digital resources are used to link life stories told in the person's own words to recorded music, and also discusses using music within person-centred care in terms of opportunities and challenges. The Music Mirror approach offers the possibility of finding and sustaining bridges of communication and understanding otherwise threatened by cognitive decline.

In *Musical processes as a metaphor for conflict transformation processes*, Craig Robertson shows how music can be used as a metaphor for the conflict transformation process, albeit in a safer environment. Doing participant-observation in two different choirs, one in Sarajevo and one in London, Robertson details under what circumstances musicking may be useful in conflict transformation situations, especially within smaller-scale 'communities of practice', by strongly interacting with memory, identity, emotion, and belief.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Music and Arts in Action thanks the contributing authors for their creativity and work, as well as the reviewers for their commitment and feedback.

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