



Job title	Research Fellow (Music/Colonial and Imperial History)	Job family and level	Research Level 4
School/ Department	Humanities, Music	Location	University Park Campus, Arts Centre Department of Music

Purpose of role

The role-holder will be an integral member of an interdisciplinary team delivering a UKRI-funded Future Leaders Fellowship project: ‘The Cultural Legacies of the British Empire: Classical Music’s Colonial History (1750-1900)’ at the University of Nottingham. The project brings the history of Western Classical music into dialogue with broader histories of colonialism, empire, and enslavement by unravelling how the history of Classical music is related to that of the British Empire, thereby countering assumptions of its exclusivity. Through a novel combination of research, community engagement, and practitioner collaboration, it will examine the consequences of colonialism for pedagogical and curatorial practice, developing strategies for teachers and curators on how best to address the sensitivities and ethical issues involved.

The successful candidate will work closely with the PI to deliver the project’s research aims, with five primary duties: 1. to conduct original archival research into music-making in colonial India; 2. to assist in the development of a digital resource making performance data and other relevant sources on colonial music-making publicly available; 3. to develop publications arising from the research and contribute to the team’s co-authored publications; 4. to work with the project’s partners in developing knowledge of their collections and new ways to present and contextualise them; 5. to assist in the preparation and delivery of multiple events and impact and KE activities aimed at a variety of audiences (teachers, curators, policy makers, academics, and the public).

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	To conduct original archival research into Classical music’s role in imperial projects and the influence of colonised subjects’ music, ideas, and practices on the development of Classical music. This will involve: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. planning and managing research activity, maintaining regular email contact and meeting with the PI on a weekly basis. 2. Undertaking research trips in the UK and India and using digitised sources to source and identify key documents pertaining to the project’s research questions, and critically engage with their contents. These might include music, playbills and advertisements, travelogues, colonial records, and newspapers. 	50%
2.	Gather performance data and sources for use in a digital resource and help develop that resource. The role-holder will record, store and share data accurately and efficiently, in line with the project’s data management plan.	10%

3.	<p>Help to communicate project findings, in person, digitally, and in print, to non-specialist audiences. This will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. contributing to, for example, radio programmes, magazine articles, and blog posts. It will also involve preparing materials for impact activities, including pedagogical resources and policy papers. 2. developing independent, original publications based on the research findings, as well as a co-authored article with the PI. 	10%
4.	<p>Work with the project's partners (British Library, English Heritage, Royal College of Music Museum) in developing knowledge of their collections and new ways to present and contextualise it.</p>	10%
5.	<p>Represent the project at external and public-facing events and contribute to building relationships with project partners as well as wider research relationships. This will involve assisting in the preparation and delivery of multiple events in 2026-7. These include: 3 focus groups with teachers, 3 outreach events in local schools and 1 outreach event at the University of Nottingham, and an exhibition hosted at the Royal College of Music Museum, a 2-day International Conference hosted at University of Nottingham, and a workshop aimed at policy makers hosted at the British Library. This will involve identifying research materials that might be appropriate for exhibition and liaising with administrative staff, project partners, and subcontractors, as well as participants and attendees.</p>	20%

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate complex information with clarity. ▪ High-level ability to analyse research data, critically evaluate research findings, and bring new insights. ▪ Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods. ▪ Attention to detail, with ability to produce accurate, appropriately formatted, proofread work. ▪ Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, both internally and externally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to read Western musical notations, and to make accurate transcriptions. ▪ Ability to use relevant digital software, such as PowerBI or Mapbox.
Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expertise in the field of the cultural history of colonial India (especially late 18th century and 19th century). ▪ Experience of archival research ▪ Experience of applying the specialist skills, approaches, and research methodologies required for the role. ▪ Experience of interdisciplinary research or evidence of openness to new methods and approaches. ▪ Experience in public engagement or engaging with communities beyond academia. ▪ Experience of publishing academic research. ▪ Experience in delivering public-facing events, including exhibitions or concerts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience researching musical performances and musicians in colonial India. ▪ Experience of conducting archival research in India. ▪ Experience working with teachers and developing pedagogical resources. ▪ Experience of policy impact. ▪ Experience of organising an exhibition. ▪ Experience in the museums/heritage sector. ▪ Experience of working within the digital humanities.

Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PhD in Imperial and Colonial History or Music, or in another field closely aligned to the project's aims or methods. 	
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The University of Nottingham is focused on embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. As part of this, we welcome a diverse population to join our work force and therefore encourage applicants from all communities, particularly those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.



The University is a signatory of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). As such we commit to focus on the scientific content of publications (where requested or provided as part of the recruitment and selection process) as a basis for review of quality, and consideration of value and impact of research conducted, rather than any proxy measures such as Journal Impact Factor.

Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University's strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

- Valuing people** Is friendly, engaging and receptive, putting others at ease. Actively listens to others and goes out of way to ensure people feel valued, developed and supported.
- Taking ownership** Is clear on what needs to be done encouraging others to take ownership. Takes action when required, being mindful of important aspects such as Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and other considerations.
- Forward thinking** Drives the development, sharing and implementation of new ideas and improvements to support strategic objectives. Engages others in the improvement process.
- Professional pride** Is professional in approach and style, setting an example to others; strives to demonstrate excellence through development of self, others and effective working practices.
- Always inclusive** Builds effective working relationships, recognising and including the contribution of others; promotes inclusion and inclusive practices within own work area.

Key relationships with others

