

RACHEL HOPKIN

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***BBC Trained Radio Producer ♦ Folklorist ♦ Sound Rich Audio Documentary Maker
Ethnographer ♦ Oral Historian ♦ Writer ♦ Historic Preservationist ♦ Teacher
Media Production ♦ Research ♦ Project Management ♦ Grant Writing ♦ Partnership Building***

Award-winning radio producer/folklorist with over ten years experience exploring rich heritage of traditional and contemporary societies around the globe. Awarded a rare “National Interest Waiver” Green Card by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration for “exceptional ability” and body of work. Skillful interviewer with innate understanding of intangible culture and proven ability to bring fresh approach to myriad forms of cultural sustainability. Studies and presents people as they establish, experience, and maintain ‘sense of place’. Respected documentary-maker with work held as examples for instruction both in UK and US.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

Independent Radio Producer and Folklorist

2006 - Present

- Awarded 2014 University Fellowship and Folklore Fellowship to study for Ph.D in Folklore at Ohio State University.
- Awarded 2013 American Folklore Society grant to produce “best practice report” on creating broadcast quality mixes and overcoming challenging field-recording situations.
- Awarded 2012 Sally Kress Tompkins fellowship from the Society of Architectural Historians and the Historic American Buildings Survey. Documented physical appearance, history, and use of buildings in Nashville (TN) that played key role in the development of that city’s music industry. Reports are now in the permanent collection at the Library of Congress.
- Produced three series of *Musical Migrants* programs for BBC radio, featuring individuals impelled to relocate for love of music. These sound-rich audio portraits have been disseminated worldwide, including via the prestigious Third Coast Festival’s Re:Sound program and its biennial Filmless Festival.
- Created Folkloristic Radio series for local Kentucky NPR, covering such diverse topics as the unique basket-making culture of central Kentucky, the founding of a 70s back-to-the-land commune in the south of the state, a profile of an original Freedom Singer, and the distinctive barbecue style of Monroe County.
- Produced multiple, independent, long-form, audio documentaries for broadcasters around the world, including a feature about chamamé (an Argentine folk music) and early Kentucky women musicians for the Australian Broadcasting Company, and a series about Irish music and migration for Dublin’s Newstalk network. Served as reporter on cultural matters and human rights issues for BBC, NPR, Australian Broadcasting Company, Radio Netherlands and the Canadian Broadcasting Company.
- Documented multiple oral history projects in remote and historic communities, such as at Elkmont in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and for the Allen County [Kentucky] Oral History and Folklife project.
- Co-developed and co-taught unique graduate level course on “Folklore and Radio Production”
- Have served as guest instructor at the Texas Folklife “Stories from Deep in the Heart” summer workshop since 2014.
- Obtained placement of 19th century Kentucky country store on National Register of Historic places.

Program Coordinator

2012 – 2014

Nevada Humanities, Las Vegas NV

- Overhauled content, organization, function, and marketing of the speakers bureau, bringing in broad range of new presenters and presentations to better reflect, and appeal to, the diverse population and changing face of modern Nevada.

- Developed new strategic partnerships, including with City of Las Vegas in an ongoing initiative to present public events designed to build appreciation of historic preservation and built environment, and with Reno Public Radio for a series entitled “Nevada’s Hidden Stories”.
- Collaborated with culturally diverse groups, ensuring their greater recognition when planning humanities-based programming, resulting in increased participation.
- Successfully obtained grants, including from Nevada Arts Council to establish a working relationship with a Mexican master embroiderer and stage a series of well-attended workshops teaching crafts to children in ethnically diverse community.
- Ensured recognition of Ofelia Perez, Mexican Matachin dance tradition bearer, and Gary and Sheldeen Haleamau, Hawaiian artists, for the 2013 and 2014 Nevada Heritage Awards respectively.
- Created multimedia content for the Nevada Humanities website; supervised and contributed to newly launched blog and other social media; maintained presence in national Humanities magazine.

BBC Radio Producer

2002-2005

BBC Music Department, Cardiff, Wales

- Made documentaries about music and related arts for Radio 4, the BBC’s main national intelligent speech network; Radio 3, its national network devoted to music and culture; and the BBC World Service.
- Produced live broadcasts of major musical events; set up concert series from ground up; ensured successful presentation of unique music performances from around the UK.

BBC Researcher/Broadcast Assistant

1999-2002

BBC Radio 3, London, England

- Researched fast-paced, weekly magazine program, producing a steady stream of fresh ideas, reacting quickly to breaking news, and creating original program items with minimal turnaround.
- Co-produced the acclaimed *New China* season, traveling to China to ensure realistic and accurate recordings.

SELECTED AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

- Awarded a rare National Interest Green Card Waiver from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for “exceptional ability” and a body of work as folklorist and radio producer deemed to be “in the national interest”, 2013.
- Presented annually at American Folklore Society Conference, 2012-2015; Vernacular Architecture Forum, 2012; Folklorists in the South Conference, 2012; and WKU Collins-Bramham Public Folklore Workshop, 2012.
- Sally Kress Tompkins fellowship, Society of Architectural Historians and HABS, 2012.
- John D. Minton Award for Outstanding Contributions to Western Kentucky University (WKU), 2012.
- Potter College of Arts and Letters Outstanding Graduate Student Award, WKU, 2012.
- Folk Studies Outstanding Graduate Student Award, WKU, 2012.
- Alexander Onassis Bursary, BBC World Service, 2002.
- Grace Wylie Prize for Thesis, Trinity College of Music, London, 1999.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- **Masters of Arts in Folk Studies**, Historic Preservation track, 4.0, Western Kentucky University, 2012
- **Bachelor of Music**, First Class Honors, Trinity College of Music, London, 1999
- **Certificate in Radio Writing and Presentation**, Birkbeck College, University of London, 1999
- **Diploma in Music**, Kodaly Institute, Kecskemet Hungary, 1995
- **BBC Courses** in: Journalism, Radio Feature Making, Digital Editing, Interviewing, Radio Research, Writing for Radio and Using Portable Recording Equipment, 1999 – 2005