What is Transmitting Musical Heritage: co-production in action

Presentation by the Transmitting Musical Heritage Team (including Fay Hield, Kate Pahl, and other team members tbc)

In this presentation we will explore the process of co-production drawing on a recent year-long project called 'Transmitting Musical Heritage'. The project team worked across three groups—Soundpost, a traditional English folk group, Arts on the Run, which included the world music group Rafiki Jazz and Babel Songs, a community music project. Each of the groups came together with academics within the University of Sheffield to reflect on the question of, ‘what is transmitting musical heritage?’. In this process, they also conducted their own events and made their own outputs for example, organising a weekend for people to come and learn about English folk fiddle playing; produced CD’s and developed ways of connecting with new communities. We consider what co-produced outputs look like when musicians make music and academics write words. Our roles are fluid although some of us are ‘only’ musicians and some ‘only’ academics. We argue that interdisciplinary work requires an attention to the processes and practices of knowing together but also involves doing things together. In the case of musicians this might happen in the music, while with academics this might happen in the writing. In this project we explored what it felt to work across these boundaries. We present a short film that illustrates the process of doing the project together with writing and music by the project team.