

Editorial

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Abigail Gardner

University of Gloucestershire

agardner@glos.ac.uk

Alex de Lacey

University of Groningen

a.j.de.lacey@rug.nl

Eric Smialek

University of Huddersfield

e.smialek@hud.ac.uk

This open issue has four articles, three book reviews and a conference report. It starts with a paper by Guglielmo Bottin about ‘ethnoforgery’ in postwar Italian popular music and traces how a 1959 album *8 Ritual Songs* was used to fabricate a veneer of authenticity that remained unquestioned for decades. From Italy to the UK, we move to Monique Charles’ paper on ‘NU-K Black’. Charles details the relationships between Afrobeats music and African migration to the United Kingdom, underlining the importance of West African values to Afrobeats’ commercial success. Next, we have Tal Vaizman’s work on saxophonist and musical director, Jaroslav Jakubovič and his influence on Israeli popular music over a decade (1981–1991). The paper argues that his intervention was key to a shift in Israel’s musical landscape during the 1980s. Flaminia di Paolo writes on South Korean band, BTS (Bangtan Sonyeodan) using hermeneutic analysis to assess their global impact.

The first of our book reviews is by Tom Wagner on Guy Morrow's *Music Artist Managers: Remuneration and Retention in the Popular Music Business* (London and New York: Routledge, 2024). The book centres on the 'challenges and precarity' that artist managers face and at 100 pages in length, is a succinct and readable contribution to the burgeoning literature on the music business.

Florian Walch discusses *The Routledge Handbook of Progressive Rock, Metal, and the Literary Imagination*, edited by Chris Anderton & Lori Burns (Abingdon & New York: Routledge, 2025). At 400 pages, Walch notes the breadth and diversity of both progressive rock and metal itself and its relationship to the literary imagination.

Kimberley Watson reviews *Island Time: Speed and the Archipelago from St. Kitts and Nevis* by Jessica Swanston Baker (University of Chicago Press 2024). Positioning it as a 'compelling meditation on Caribbean temporality and its global resonances', her review focuses on debates surrounding the politics and poetics of temporality in relation to daily life, music and politics in St. Kitts and Nevis.

We also have a conference report! Belisa Zoehler Giorgis and Katherine Wiseman provide an overview of the IASPM UK and Ireland Branch Postgraduate Conference that was held in Leeds, UK on the 4th and 5th of September 2025.

This issue has been ushered into being by the outgoing and incoming teams in a spirit of learning by doing and we wish Ann, Sudipta, Nassos and Sangheon all the best in their stewardship of the journal over the coming three years. We also want to thank Susan O'Shea for her input as book reviews editor, a post that is now being filled by Fred Hosken. If you would like to be part of our bank of reviewers, just email the editors, and if you fancy copyediting...