

Institution: University of Oxford		
Unit of Assessment: 33 – Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies		
Title of case study: Digital Delius: enhancing musical understanding by creating new resources for performance, education, and interpretation		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 1 October 2015 – 31 December 2020		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s):	Role(s) (e.g. job title):	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:
Professor Daniel Grimley	Professor of Music	10/2009-present
Dr Joanna Bullivant	Researcher	01/10/15-30/09/16; 01/09/17-30/09/18; 01/10/19-present
Dr Kevin Page	Senior Researcher, Oxford e-Research Centre	01/09/18-30/10/19
David Lewis	Researcher, Oxford e-Research Centre	01/09/18-30/10/19
Period when the claimed impact occurred: 1 November 2015 – 31 December 2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N		
1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words)		
<p><i>Digital Delius</i> enhanced musical understanding by developing new interpretations of the work of Frederick Delius. The project collaborated with musicians, teachers, and the heritage sector, to create new cultural artefacts, influence creative practice, support innovative teaching, and stimulate public engagement. The research team built a digital exhibition for the British Library that made these sources freely available alongside expert commentary and innovative multimedia resources. <i>Digital Delius</i> reached hundreds of students, from primary school to undergraduate level, and engaged a wider audience through events, articles, and media appearances. Grimley worked closely with performers to increase knowledge and appreciation of the composer's music, including world premiere recordings of hitherto unknown works.</p>		
2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words)		
<p>The underpinning research for this case study was Grimley's AHRC-funded project 'Delius, Modernism, and the Sound of Place', a collaboration between the University of Oxford, the British Library, and the Royal Library, Denmark. The British Library provided extended access to manuscripts and advice on cataloguing; the Royal Library provided expertise in specialist music programming software (MerMEId); and the research was undertaken by researchers based in the Faculty of Music and the e-Research Centre at Oxford. Scholarly evaluation of Frederick Delius's music has been slow to develop in comparison with other historically contemporary figures such as Mahler or Sibelius. In [R1], Grimley showed that, far from being a rhapsodist with little feeling for musical form as his popular reception has assumed, Delius had a sophisticated relationship with key places (Florida, Germany, Scandinavia, France) and a keen sense for musical architecture. Detailed analyses of works in their cultural context revealed complex relationships between music, place and identity in Delius's music, as in the case of the 1916 String Quartet, composed in English exile during the First World War [R4 and R5]. Bullivant's role in the project was the creation of the online Delius Catalogue of Works [R2] and curating the preparation of the Discovering Music Delius pages [R6]. Previous print-based catalogues did not reflect the current state of manuscript sources, were difficult to use, and relatively inaccessible. The new digital catalogue was accessible to all, integrated with library and archival catalogues to reflect the current location of manuscripts, updateable, and easy-to-use thanks to the use of the music cataloguing software MerMEId [R3]. Bullivant's research</p>		

uncovered the problematic state of published sources of information on Delius performance. Manuscripts and printed scores of various Delius works held by the British Library and the Delius Trust reveal extensive editorial contributions, especially those of conductor Sir Thomas Beecham. These additions were incorporated wholesale into the Delius Collected Edition, rendering it impossible to distinguish between the composers' annotations and those of Beecham and others. *Digital Delius* provided the opportunity to re-assess and disseminate those resources, and to optimise their educative potential, allowing non-specialists to gain a significantly richer and more enhanced understanding of the complex relationships between versions, manuscripts variants, and recordings in an online environment. The innovative quality of this research was recognised by a BL Labs Award in 2018 [A1]. A presentation based on an article drawn from the underpinning research and its findings won the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries Best Demonstration award for 'MELD: A Linked Data Framework for Multimedia Access to Music Digital Libraries' at the JCDL 2019 conference held in June at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA [A2]. The project won a Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Award at Oxford in 2019 [A3].

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

- R1.** [Authored Book] Daniel M. Grimley, *Delius and the Sound of Place* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108657846>, funded by AHRC Leadership Fellowship AH/M00659X/1 (GBP158,495).
- R2.** Digital resource: Joanna Bullivant and Daniel M. Grimley, The Delius Catalogue of Works (<https://delius.music.ox.ac.uk/catalogue/>), funded by AHRC Leadership Fellowship AH/M00659X/1 (GBP158,495), winner of the British Library Labs Research Award, 2018.
- R3.** [Conference Contribution] David Lewis, David M. Weigl, Joanna Bullivant, Kevin R. Page, 'Publishing Musicology using Multimedia Digital Libraries: Creating Interactive Articles through a Framework for Linked Data and MEI', DLfM 18: Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Digital Libraries for Musicology (ACM: New York, 2018), 21-5. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3273024.3273038>
- R4.** [Journal Article] Daniel M. Grimley, 'Chasing Late Swallows', *Delius Society Journal*, 160 (Autumn 2016), 37-51. https://www.delius.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2010-present_44_673370539-1.pdf
- R5.** [CD] Villiers Quartet, *Delius String Quartet. Elgar String Quartet*, with liner notes by Daniel M. Grimley (Naxos, 8.573586, 2017). https://www.naxos.com/catalogue/item.asp?item_code=8.573586
- R6.** [Website Content] British Library Discovering Music Pages on Frederick Delius: <https://www.bl.uk/20th-century-music/articles/delius-in-performance> [accessed 15 March 2020] Funded by AHRC Follow-on Funding Award AH/P009360/1 (GBP78,433)

Research Grants and Awards

- G1.** D. Grimley (PI) AHRC Leadership Fellowship AH/M00659X/1 (GBP158,495)
- G2.** D. Grimley (PI) AHRC Follow-on Funding Award AH/P009360/1 (GBP78,433)
- A1.** British Library Labs Award (2018), Research Category, for 'The Delius Catalogue of Works' (J. Bullivant, D. Grimley, D. Lewis and K. Page). Available at: https://data.bl.uk/bl_labs_digital_projects_archive/individual_projects/Delius_Catalogue_JBullivant_et_al_2018-Research-Award.pdf
- A2.** Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (2019) Best Demonstration Award for 'MELD: A Linked Data Framework for Multimedia Access to Music Digital Libraries'. Available at: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8791107>
- A3.** Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Award (2019) for 'Digital Delius: Interpretation, Performance, and Analysis'. Available at: <https://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/article/digital-delius-project-wins-vc-public-engagement-with-research-award>

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

Increased understanding of the relationship between manuscripts and the musical work

Digital Delius enabled students, amateur and professional musicians, scholars and the public to have free access for the first time to a range of unique material, pairing digitized manuscripts with photographs, letters, concert programmes, recordings, published scores and expert commentary [A.i.–iii]. The British Library writes that ‘*Digital Delius* played a crucial role in enabling the British Library to create its new online learning resource *Discovering music: early 20th century*’ and adds that ‘the success of *Discovering Music* has exceeded our expectations’: DM was set a target of 7,200 page views for its first year and achieved 3,293 in three weeks, with ‘Delius in Performance’ achieving 104 views in this period and 19,537 new users in the first 12 months with 26,104 logged [B.i]. A prototype article written by Bullivant with interactive features designed by Lewis allowed readers to access a glossary alongside video, audio, manuscript and typed content, and to view Beecham’s score of *Brigg Fair* and hear his recording of the work simultaneously [A.iv].

Influenced professional practice and understanding through co-production of new cultural artefacts with musicians and directors

Grimley’s edition of the original version of Delius’s String Quartet (1916) received its first performance in 99 years with the Villiers Quartet [C]. Reviews of the Villiers’ commercially released CD using Grimley’s edition [D] have been overwhelmingly positive, describing the original movements as ‘expertly reconstructed’ [E.i.–iii]. The Villiers Quartet state that ‘collaborating with [Grimley and Bullivant] was one of the most valuable things we have ever experienced as a string quartet’, and that ‘the information uncovered by Daniel Grimley and Joanna Bullivant has entered our collective DNA as a quartet ... our approach to composers has also changed greatly since this project’ [B.ii]. Since release, Grimley’s edition of ‘Late Swallows’ has been the most streamed track from the CD, with 15,000 UK streams and a total of 186,000 globally since 2018 [B.iii]. Grimley subsequently worked with the Villiers on the premiere of two newly discovered movements from an earlier Quartet (1888), purchased at Sotheby’s by the Delius Trust with Grimley’s assistance as consultant, which received their world premiere performance in Oxford on 8 October 2020 at an event entitled *Discovering Delius* [F]. This performance took place during the Covid lockdown and was live-streamed, accompanied by introductions and a Q&A session with Grimley and Bullivant: the link received over 1,500 views in its first month [B.iv].

Grimley has collaborated with other groups and artists to co-create new artefacts. George Parris, musical director of the Carice Singers, invited Grimley to work on a critically acclaimed recording of Delius’s choral music released in 2017, advising on repertoire and working with the singers before recording began. Parris writes that ‘I consider Daniel’s insights and suggestions of approaches to have been essential to [the project’s] success’ [B.v]. Grimley worked with the pianist Edward Rushton on the world premiere recording of six newly discovered piano pieces; Grimley edited the score and obtained funding from the Trust to publish the performance, which has been viewed 336 times since June 2020. Composer Colin Matthews describes the music on YouTube as ‘remarkable’ [G].

Supported young musicians to interpret Delius

Digital Delius has supported younger musicians in a number of ways. A workshop with the Villiers Quartet aimed at amateur players and non-specialist listeners was permanently captured in a video in *Discovering Music* [A.v]. The event also featured Page and Lewis’s prototype tablet app, which enabled live digital annotation and projection and enhanced engagement by allowing audience members to see score annotations rather than simply listen to discussion.

Grimley and Bullivant took part in an open rehearsal with the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra on 10 March 2018, conducted by John Traill. Students interviewed afterwards said they gained a ‘better picture of how Delius composes’ and said that they were now ‘Definitely thinking more about subtlety of affects and gestures, and how he tries to achieve that’ [H.i]. Traill writes that ‘the impact of this collaboration was wide and meaningful’, and that ‘the orchestra not

only sounded better after this workshop, they also attained broader learning outcomes.’ He adds that ‘[Grimley’s] contributions to the concerts for schools [on 27 January 2018] helped articulate the *here and now* of the music that was being played, and further supported not only inspiring young people to pursue music, but also age-appropriate school curriculum’ [B.vi].

Influenced innovative teaching

Using collection items and articles from the *Discovering Music* Delius pages, the Head of Music at a comprehensive school in Surrey [B.vii], prepared three sets of teaching resources, combining questions about context and interpretation with basic composition exercises. They are available as PDFs that can be downloaded and photocopied [A.vi]. Her pupils trialed the resources at the BL, where they viewed original manuscripts and worked with composer Anthony Payne, commenting that ‘It was interesting to find out that the composers do not think of all their pieces at once and write a piece from scratch it takes a long process of writing bits of music and see how they fit together [sic]’ and praising the different kinds of material available on *Discovering Music* [H.ii]. *Discovering Music* was used again for quiz activity with members of the public at ‘Humanities Light Night’ in Oxford in 2019, with numerous children commenting that they learned new things and would use the resource again [H.iii].

Bullivant subsequently hosted an online workshop for teachers during the COVID-19 lockdown on 5 June 2020. Attended by teachers from a diverse range of schools, including a South London Comprehensive and a state school in East Anglia, comments included: ‘students will find it super exciting!’, ‘lots of lovely links with all the A level boards’, and ‘the PDF resources are brilliant’ [I]. Bullivant and Grimley are now developing materials for GCSE students based on feedback from the event.

Increased understanding and knowledge through public engagement

Numerous individuals have spoken of the transformative impact of the project on their understanding and knowledge. Conductor Lionel Friend has remarked that Grimley’s research ‘takes me to areas I have never before explored or even contemplated: most fascinating, most thought-provoking and stimulating’ [B.viii]. Delius enthusiasts emailed Grimley to comment that his BBC Radio 3 broadcast on *Sea Drift* was ‘both measured and informative’ and directed them to new recordings [H.iv]. Grimley’s monograph was the subject of a Music Matters programme on Radio 3, first broadcast on 8 December 2018 and subsequently available on the BBC iPlayer [J] and Grimley has given pre-concert talks (for instance by the Park Lane Group), which has informed critical understanding of Delius’s music and its context [E.iv]. Grimley has since provided expert advice to the Delius Trust, and has been appointed an official Adviser to the Trust from March 2020 [K.i]; he was elected honorary vice-president of the Delius Society in May 2020 in recognition of his ‘reputation as an analyst, speaker and author on [Delius’s] music and its aesthetic and philosophical foundations’ [K.ii].

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

- A.** Selected British Library webpages (archived 6 January 2021) from *Digital Delius*.
 - i. Discovering 20th Century Music Homepage.
 - ii. Delius & America.
 - iii. Delius in Performance.
 - iv. Brigg Fair.
 - v. Villiers Quartet Workshop.
 - vi. Teaching Resources.
- B.** Selected statements from external professionals.
 - i. British Library Partner Statement, 1 October 2019.
 - ii. Villiers Quartet, 12 May 2020.
 - iii. Violist, Villiers Quartet, 30 December 2020.

- iv. Event Programme Manager, Humanities Division, University of Oxford, 7 December 2020.
- v. George Parris, Musical Director of the Carice Singers, 18 April 2020.
- vi. John Traill, Conductor of OCYO, 16 April 2020.
- vii. Rebecca Clarey, Director of Music, Salesian School, 21 September 2020.
- viii. Lionel Friend, Conductor, October 2013.

C. 'Delius: Late Swallows', podcast (accessed 29 December 2020).

D. Villiers Quartet CD Liner Notes.

E. Selected media coverage.

- i. Gramophone Review, July 2017 (archived 5 January 2021).
- ii. Musicweb Review, June 2017 (archived 5 January 2021).
- iii. The Strad Review, 8 August 2017 (archived 11 January 2021).
- iv. Classical Source Review, 16 February 2017 (archived 8 January 2021).

F. *Discovering Delius*, live event & YouTube video, 8 October 2020 (archived 8 January 2021).

G. Edward Rushton, 'Delius: 6 Piano Pieces', YouTube video 12 June 2020 (archived 6 January 2021).

H. Selected audience responses.

- i. OCYO student feedback, 10 March 2018.
- ii. British Library workshop student feedback.
- iii. 'Humanities Light Night' student feedback, 15 November 2019.
- iv. Sea Drift 'fan email', 5 March 2016.

I. Online Workshop Chat Transcript, 26 June 2020.

J. *Music Matters: Delius and the Sound of Place*, BBC Radio 3, 8 December 2018.

K. Appointment Letters.

- i. Delius Trust Appointment Letter, 22 February 2020.
- ii. Delius Society Appointment Letter, 10 May 2020.