

Institution: Royal Academy of Music		
Unit of Assessment: Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies		
Title of case study: Public Understanding of Jazz and Popular Music		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2004 - 2019		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s): Dr Alyn Shipton	Role(s) (e.g. job title): Professor of Jazz History and Critical Listening, and Research Fellow	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI: 2008 - present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: 4 August 2013 – 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>Dr Alyn Shipton's research focuses on jazz and popular music in the twentieth century. As a scholar and broadcaster, Dr Shipton has a long record of communicating the results of his research to audiences considerably beyond academia through his own regular appearances on BBC Radio. His work has led to enhanced public awareness of significant (but hitherto neglected) figures in jazz and popular music by reaching and effecting impact on both a wide consumer audience and professional practice, resulting in a reassessment of his subjects' work.</p>		
2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words)		
<p>Dr Shipton's research during the relevant period can be summarised as falling into four main categories: oral history and biography, jazz history and historiography, the relationship between jazz and visual arts, and the performance practice of swing and traditional jazz.</p> <p>The first of these areas saw the continuation of work begun in the 1980s with the first edition of his Danny Barker biography. This has since progressed into a range of oral histories and biographies, including those of Doc Cheatham, George Shearing, and Billy J. Kramer, and a second edition of the Barker biography with a new layer of photographic documentation. Shipton's Chris Barber biography was the result of his determination to cover British jazz with the same methodology and depth as his work on American musicians. It consolidated ideas from his biography of the British trumpeter Ian Carr (<i>Out of the Long Dark</i>, Sheffield, Equinox, 2006), and the oral history of George Shearing (NY, Continuum, 2004). For <i>Nilsson</i>, Shipton worked on the documentary material on Nilsson's recordings held at the Sony/RCA archives in New York, and in the singer's personal archive, publishing most of this material for the first time. This led to RCA reissuing almost Nilsson's entire catalogue of recordings in a 17CD boxed set, published in tandem with Shipton's biography.</p> <p>Through these projects, Dr Shipton developed a particular specialisation in the neglected area of jazz iconography. The research for <i>The Art of Jazz</i>, conducted in 2017, involved visits to exhibitions in Paris and New York, and working closely with Professor Catherine Tackley (Liverpool University) on the exhibition <i>Rhythm and Reaction</i> at 2 Temple Place, London (Jan-April 2018). Shipton also lent artefacts from his own collection for this exhibition, and wrote a preview for the Arts Society Review (Autumn 2017).</p>		

As series editor for Equinox Publishing, Shipton worked with the European Jazz Network and Francisco Martinelli on the *History of European Jazz*. This entailed collaborating with Martinelli to build a team of writers who would cover the subject consistently and exhaustively. Shipton produced guidelines for authors, and wrote the series introduction and chapter on early British jazz.

In 2004 Shipton formed the Buck Clayton Legacy Band to play music left to him by the American swing trumpeter. The band is an international co-operation, involving musicians from Holland, Germany and the UK, and playing Clayton's music with the ensemble and performance practices that would have been heard on his European tours in the 1960s. Shipton has worked closely with members of the band to restore Clayton's arrangements or to create new ones when little of the original material survives. The band began touring seriously in 2011, also recording that year for BBC Radio 3 in a concert subsequently issued on CD. It has since toured widely in Europe, specialising in the music of Clayton and other swing era players. It has played most major UK festivals, bringing the music to audiences in Holland, France, Germany, Switzerland and Poland.

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

Nilsson. The Life of a Singer-Songwriter (Oxford University Press, 2013) [REF2014]

Jazz Me Blues (The Autobiography of Chris Barber) (Sheffield: Equinox, 2014)

Danny Barker: A Life in Jazz, 2nd edition (Historic Orleans Collection, 2016)

'Series Editor Introduction' and 'Great Britain 1900-1960' in Francisco Martinelli (ed.), *The History of European Jazz* (Sheffield: Equinox, 2018)

'Buck Clayton en France' in Anne Legrand (ed.), *Harlem A Limgoes* (Limoges: Ardent, 2018); Founder and Director of the *Buck Clayton Legacy Band* (2004 to present), which performs music left to Shipton following the death of US swing trumpeter Buck Clayton.

The Art of Jazz (Watertown, MA: Imagine, 2020)

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

Shipton's research has impacted the popular understanding of twentieth-century jazz and popular music history through two mechanisms: first, through reaching a wide consumer audience outside of academia; second, through engaging professional musicians, thus reawakening commercial interest in key historical figures.

Shipton's weekly broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 have provided a platform to bring his subjects, and related areas of jazz and popular music, to a general listenership. In addition, Shipton was presenter, writer, and researcher for *World War 1: The Cradle of Jazz*, broadcast on BBC Radio 3, 6 July 2014.

His book on the singer-songwriter Harry Nilsson, first broadcast as Radio 4's *Book of the Week* in August 2013 (reaching a daily audience of 1.5 million out of the station's total reach of over 11 million) (1), was re-broadcast on Radio 4 Extra (weekly reach 2.17 million) in 2018, with

materials preserved on the BBC websites (2). It was also serialised by *The Mail on Sunday* (readership of 1.7 million), and in 2017 was translated into Japanese. The film rights to the book were optioned by Elevated Films in Los Angeles in July 2018 and renewed in January 2020. A Blu-Ray DVD of Nilsson's animated film *The Point* was released in February 2020. Contained within the publication is an hour-long interview with Shipton on Nilsson's film career. The book won a Deems Taylor / Virgil Thomson Award from the ASCAP Foundation in the US, and an ARSC award for excellence.

The second edition of *A Life in Jazz* brought renewed interest in the music of Danny Barker (3). Shipton spoke at the launch conference at the Historic New Orleans Collection in 2016, and was also interviewed on several radio stations in Louisiana and the South. This was followed by lectures on Barker and Nilsson at the 2017 Louisiana Book Festival, and an appearance on a statewide TV broadcast (4). The annual Danny Barker Banjo and Guitar Festival, launched in 2014, hosted a special event in January 2017, including round tables and seminars on the new edition of *A Life in Jazz*. To coincide with the greatly expanded discography, GHB Records released a 2CD set, *Danny Barker – New Orleans Jazz Man and Raconteur* (BCD-535/536).

To coincide with the publication of *Jazz Me Blues*, Lake Records published a CD of Barber's previously unreleased music that is discussed in the book (LACD332), including collaborations with US blues singers Jimmy Witherspoon and Muddy Waters. Additionally, the Chris Barber Collection released a DVD (CBCDVD5002) the same month, including band footage from the 1950s, 1980s, and 2000s. Book, CD, and DVD were sold at the band's concerts, which numbered 150 events per year up to Barber's retirement in 2019.

Shipton spoke about the editorial process of *The Art of Jazz* at the Documenting Jazz Conference at Birmingham City University in January 2020. After publication he gave lectures at the Oxford Centre for Life Writing and at the Cambridge Jazz Festival (5). The book has also featured in Publishers' Weekly, Library Journal's Day of Dialog, and Jazz FM's book club (6). Shipton was also involved in multiple events to mark the publication of *The History of European Jazz*. Following the launch in Lisbon, events were held in many parts of Europe with local contributors: Shipton participated in events in London (EFG London Jazz Festival, Nov 2018) and in Dublin (Documenting Jazz, January 2019). The book has been widely reviewed across Europe, the USA, and beyond, with a review on the Jazz in Europe website being viewed in excess of 50,000 times (7).

In 2014 at Breda, Holland, Shipton worked with members of Buck Clayton's own Swing Orchestra (Dan Barrett and Randy Sandke) and subsequently with the US blues singer Michael Roach, restoring Clayton's 1950s arrangements for blues singers Jimmy Rushing and Joe Turner. The band recorded with Roach for BBC Radio in 2015, and has subsequently collaborated with singer Julia Biel to explore Clayton's musical partnership with Billie Holiday (8). In 2018 Shipton began working with the clarinettist Adrian Cox on a project to explore the music of New Orleans clarinettist George Lewis, and the performance practice associated with this early style of jazz. This project has played in Switzerland (two tours) and the UK, including a performance at the opening weekend of the 2019 EFG London Jazz Festival. In November 2019 a quintet drawn from the band played as part of the concert series at the Fondacion Juan March in Madrid (9).

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

[1] Source: Radio Joint Audience Research (RAJAR).

[2] Book of the Week – Nilsson: The Life of a Singer-Songwriter, BBC Radio 4, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/radio4/entries/2e5a77c6-466f-30b4-acf0-6ef57b2619e8> (accessed 7 December 2020); Kerry Shale reads from 'Nilsson: The Life of a Singer Songwriter' by Alyn Shipton, BBC Sounds, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p01fjk76> (accessed 7 December 2020).

[3] Gwen Thompkins, 'Giving a Great Jazz Storyteller his Due,' *New Yorker*, 6 December, 2016, <https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/danny-barker-giving-a-great-jazz-storyteller-his-due> (accessed 8 December 2020).

[4] 2017 Louisiana Book Festival Statewide TV Segment (at 54.40), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZY_cmAk9eo (accessed 14 December 2020).

[5] From the Stave to Sounds, into Words (at 6.41), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4j83oMjdnbA> (accessed 14 December 2020); Cambridge Jazz Festival 2020 – Talk: Alyn Shipton 'The Art of Jazz: A Visual History', https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ucv3wf1yfy8&feature=emb_logo (accessed 14 December 2020).

[6] Leonard Picker, PW LitCast: A conversation with Alyn Shipton, 14 September 2020, <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/podcasts/index.html?podcast=1094&channel=7> (accessed 14 December 2020); Chat with Alyn Shipton, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drKIJTsmTno&feature=youtu.be> (accessed 14 December 2020).

[7] Peter Jones, 'Book Review – The History of European Jazz – (Equinox, 2018), *Jazz in Europe*, 30 October 2018, <https://jazzineurope.mfmmedia.nl/2018/10/book-review-the-history-of-european-jazz-equinox-2018/> (accessed 8 December 2020).

[8] I'm a Fool To Want You Buck and Billie The Buck Clayton Legacy Band Southampton 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVEkKdvgfnY> (accessed 14 December 2020).

[9] Fundación Juan March, 'Alyn Shipton: "I am now playing as I want to play. As a contemporary player, while being true to the spirit of the oldest jazz', 3 January 2020, <https://medium.com/@fundacionmarch/alyn-shipton-i-am-now-playing-as-i-want-to-play-33998b59d0a4> (accessed 8 December 2020).