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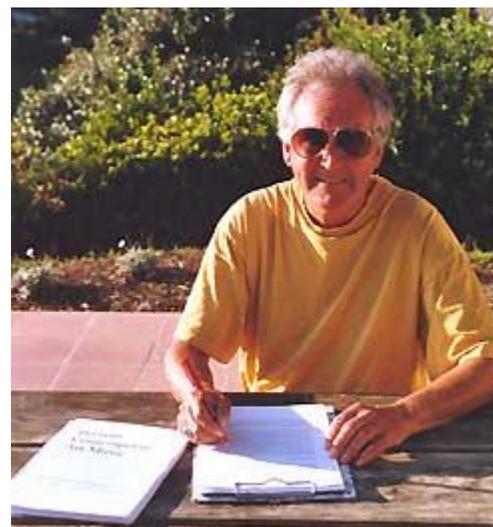
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Professor John Baily

Biography

John Baily originally studied psychology and physiology at Oxford University 1962-65. In 1970 he gained a doctorate in experimental psychology at the University of Sussex for research on human spatial orientation, sensori-motor coordination, and motor control. In 1973 he began his long association with anthropologist and ethnomusicologist John Blacking at The Queen's University of Belfast, with research on the relationship between human movement and music structure. Supported by an SSRC Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, he carried out a year's fieldwork on long-necked lutes in the city of Herat, in western Afghanistan. The local instrument, called dutâr (meaning literally "two strings"), had undergone dramatic morphological transformations between 1950 and 1965, and these were studied in terms of the (changing) morphology of the instrument, the patterns of movement used to play it, and the structure of the music produced. This research showed how particular kinds of music are adapted to the spatial layouts of certain instruments, and suggested that musical cognition may involve thinking in movement, rather than simply in terms of sound.



In 1976 John Baily returned to Afghanistan for a second year of fieldwork, this time on the anthropology of music in Herat (leading eventually to a doctorate in social anthropology from Queen's University Belfast, 1988). After a year as a Senior Associate Member in the Middle East Centre of St Antony's College, Oxford, he was appointed Lecturer in Ethnomusicology at Queen's University Belfast. In 1984 he was awarded a Leverhulme Film Training Fellowship by the Royal Anthropological Institute at the National Film and Television School, and directed two feature-length 16mm documentary films, *Amir: An Afghan Refugee Musician's Life in Peshawar, Pakistan*, and *Lessons from Gulam: Asian Music in Bradford*. In 1988, after two years as a Visiting Research Fellow in the School for African and Asian Studies at the University of Sussex, he was appointed Associate Professor in the Center for Ethnomusicology at Columbia University, New York. In 1990 he moved to Goldsmiths College, University of London, where he is now

Reader in Ethnomusicology.

As a musician John Baily has been playing the Afghan lutes the dutur and the rubub for the last 25 years and is acclaimed by Afghans as a performer of their traditional music. He has published widely on the music of Afghanistan, including several CDs of field and studio recordings of Afghan music. His other main research interests are musical cognition, music and the human body, ethnomusicological film making, and music in the South Asian communities in the UK.

John Baily leads the teaching of ethnomusicology at Goldsmiths College. The [MMus in Ethnomusicology](#) emphasises theory and practice, and is orientated towards the approaches pioneered by John Blacking. Doctoral students under his supervision are working on a variety of topics, including: Iraqi Jewish women's music in Israel; Goralé string band music of the Tatra Mountains, Poland; classically trained professional musicians in London; singers' representations of vocalisation in opera, jazz and folk genres; salsa in London; pipe and tabor music and dance in the Basque country; "neo-rembetika" in Saloniki; and the gombaz in Malaysia.

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Colloquium, Czechoslovakia 1988; Margaret Mead Film Festival, New York 1988; Panel on the Future of Afghanistan, University of Utah, 1989; Society for Ethnomusicology annual conference, Boston 1989. Association of American Anthropologists annual conference, Washington, 1989; Middle East Studies Association annual conference, Toronto, 1989; British Forum for Ethnomusicology annual conference, the Irish World Music Centre, University of Limerick, 1997; IX Rassegna Internazionale di Documentari Etnografica at the Istituto Superiore Regionale Etnografico, Nuoro, Sardinia, 1998; V Congreso de la Sociedad Iberica de Etnomusicologia, Renteria, Pais Vasco, Spain, 1999; IIIrd Film South Asia Festival, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2001; Forum d'Anthropologie Visually 2002, Geneva; RAI Afghanistan: The Background. A Day of Ethnographic Films on the Peoples of Afghanistan, Brunei Gallery, London, 2002.

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[Staff Research / Top](#)

Music Department, Goldsmiths College, University of London, New Cross, London, SE14 6NW

Tel: 020 7919 7640 | Fax: 020 7919 7644 | E-mail: music@gold.ac.uk

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