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Interviewees: Holly and Susan, Jen Morris, Nino Naneishvili, Listeners

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Holly Taylor-Zuntz 0:04

Welcome to Voices Of The Ancestors, where we explore Georgian polyphonic songs, and the women who sing them.

Susan Thompson 0:19

Hello, welcome to this experimental episode recorded at the turning of the year, we reflect on the highlights and lowlights of starting 'Voices Of The Ancestors' in 2020. Our listeners joined us and share their dream guest ideas. The very first guest, Jen Morris, and Nino Naneishvili from Episode Three, talk about the unexpected consequences of being on the podcast. Nino has a beautiful perspective on how the podcast shines a light on traditional musicians in Georgia. If this is the first time you've listened to the podcast, I'm so glad you found it. If you can, I propose listening to episodes one and three before the rest of this one. This episode is an experimental live, the sound is different to our normal episodes. And we hope you enjoy the interactivity between the guests and listeners and appreciate the varied sound from around the world.

Music: [Makharia](#) by [Ialoni](#)

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 1:25

So welcome, everyone, to our first ever live podcast recording. It's a little bit of an experiment. But here we are on [zoom](#), and with a live audience and some special guests who you're going to be hearing from very shortly. And but, to kick off. I think we'll hear from me and Susan, I'm here in Oxford and Susan, where are you?

Susan Thompson 1:56

So I'm in Tbilisi, Georgia, which is somewhat of a surprise, but a delightful one! *Laughter*

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 2:05

and we've just had Christmas here.

Susan Thompson 2:08

And we haven't. But I have got a Christmas tree. Well, actually, I've got two Christmas trees in my background, I've got the green one that you may be familiar with. And then one that I think is made out of Hazel, like shaved. And it's like these little squiggly things that um - Yeah, Georgian Christmas tree. So and I'm told that you need to burn it. So to get rid of the year, the previous

year, and to sort of refresh the new year. So I think the end of 2020 may be a really good year to actually burn that [Georgian Christmas tree](#).

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 2:45

Ah, let's do it. Let's burn 2020. I love that tradition, like burning the old year and starting afresh. I think that's really... yeah. So on that theme, maybe we can start with talking about the year that's passed. And so Susan, what were some of your... We're going to start with like, lowlights and highlights I guess.

Susan Thompson 3:13

That's right. Yeah I'm just aware that we've got somebody else joining us who doesn't seem to have joined by the green room.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 3:20

So sorry, I just I just admitted, our tech support.

Susan Thompson 3:25

That .. Oh, good. We'll start with some of our thanks and gratitude and that's one of them.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 3:29

What are we grateful for in 2020, because I know we're both grateful for our tech support, aren't we?

Susan Thompson 3:35

Absolutely. Yeah. And in order to get this podcast started, we've had so much help from different people. So Jen, you were invaluable right at the beginning for so many reasons, like going - 'try this piece of tech, or what about [squadcast](#)?' And, 'yes of course, I'll be your first guest'. Do you know how to podcast?

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 3:59

Absolutely. And I'm grateful to all of our guests so far for just taking the time to talk to us, you know, it's not like we pay them or anything to come on the podcast, but they, they're happy to take that time to talk to us. And so that's been something I'm really grateful for.

Susan Thompson 4:18

And I think well, I'm also really grateful to our listeners, because, you know, we had no idea right at the beginning, would anybody listen to this? Was it just us, that like talking about Georgian polyphonic song from morning, noon, 'til night. So that's really lovely to have this and it's really lovely to have listeners who've supported us financially as well, you know, through [Ko-Fi](#). I mean, that's, that's been a great thing because, yeah, I mean, look, here we go. Here's my I'm going to proudly show my new bit of kit, my [lavalier mic](#), which was bought with the proceeds of people that have helped us, so that's been great.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 4:52

Yeah, yeah, that's so true, I think, because we've realised through doing this, that we we Susan, I can very easily pour many, many hours into podcast making and talking about the podcast, then producing it and advertising it and getting it out there. And I, I can't believe how many hours of my life I spent making this podcast, but I love doing it. And so I guess, it's, I'm grateful. And I guess the highlight of my 2020 has been the podcast, learning how to do it, learning how to edit, um, sound and learning about sound quality and like different microphones. Big up, Johnny, thank you tech support for that. But then a low light has also been like learning that the hard way. For example, when I was working on Zoé's episode, my computer decided to delete the whole thing just before I was about to release it. Or we've got Ashlyn and Miranda on the call right now. We had such a wonderful conversation with them. I think it was a few months ago now. And it was one of those golden conversations where they talked about beautiful memories and it went on for hours and Miranda played the Chonguri. And afterwards, I was so excited to start editing it. And I listened back. And it was completely unusable, wasn't it?

Susan Thompson 6:28

Yeah, I yeah. And I listened. And there was, my heart wanted it to be good enough. And I just thought Ashlyn and Miranda, you have such distinctive voices. And so many people know your voices. And when I listen to the sound, I just thought it hardly sounds like Ashlyn and Miranda. Just not up to it.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 6:46

It didn't do you justice.

Susan Thompson 6:48

No

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 6:49

I guess. Yeah, that takes us on to what are we looking forward to? Yeah. Which is re-interviewing Ashlyn and Miranda with good quality sound, right?

Susan Thompson 6:59

Yes. Solving the tech.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 7:03

That's gonna be - Yeah - that's coming in 2021? For sure.

Susan Thompson 7:07

Yeah. As is an episode with [Magda Kevlishvili](#), where again, it took us three goes to get the tech to work. So that.. a least I hope it worked, have you listened back, Holly?

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 7:21

Oh, yeah. It's ..We only recorded it yesterday. Yeah. So I haven't listened back. But like, I think it's gonna be great. And we'll we're planning to release that actually as a Christmas episode. But

for Georgian Christmas, which is really sneaky, because it just gives me like, a bit of extra time for everything. So thanks, Georgian Christmas.

Susan Thompson 7:45

Yeah, and thanks to Magda because I mean, you know, she's, we sent her around town, she's tried, from two different locations in the previous month when I was still in England. And then, and then we tried again, here and then. And then I got COVID, which was actually quite handy, because it meant that when we did record, we could be sitting side by side. And yeah, in Georgia on a good Wi Fi connection, and then Holly could be in Oxford, and it all magically worked. So that was fantastic.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 8:13

Yeah, and we've got loads of other guests lined up for 2021. And as I mentioned like, we spend, we've realised like how much work it is to produce a podcast. And we were trying to do it when we started, like every two weeks. And but now I think it would be more sensible to set ourselves the realistic goal of once a month.

Susan Thompson 8:37

Yes.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 8:37

Potential bonus episodes here and there. Yeah. So, so who else have we? So we've got Magda? We've got Ashlyn and Miranda. Definitely gonna to have [Joan Mills](#). Right.

Susan Thompson 8:53

Yep yeah, yeah, yeah.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 8:55

In Wales, in Aberystwyth, who was really like, at the beginning of this whole story, so can't wait to hear from her on it.

Susan Thompson 9:03

Absolutely. And, and [Nana Mzhavanadze](#), I'm very much looking forward to interviewing Nana, so yeah, she is, she's on the list. She's .. we're in communication. And you were saying about sort of, sort of highlights and I was thinking that was one of my highlights, is just that whole interaction with our guests before we even get into the recording studio, you know, not that we really actually have a studio as such, but yeah, just just, you know, finding out a little bit more and chatting and, and, and finding out what their concerns and worries are, because not everybody likes to sit and talk and be recorded, especially if it's not in your first language. So yeah, so for me, you know, going through that process and working out how people can feel most at ease and give of their best. It's been a great learning.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 9:54

Yeah, and we/ we were talking about who our dream guests might be for the podcast, and we started with like wild dreams of [Kate Bush](#) and [Katie Melua](#), who's maybe not such a wild dream. I mean, she is Georgian and you know, active and maybe one day that could happen,

Susan Thompson 10:21

Maybe.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 10:23

But they're not. I was thinking of a, actually my dream podcast guest would be a grandma from the village that Nino's been working with this year. I'm sure Nino can tell us more about it in a minute. But to be able to have some maybe an interpreter or something, and so that we could communicate with those wisdom keepers.

Susan Thompson 10:47

Hmm. Yeah, I think that was my dream as well, when I kept thinking about it and thinking about it. And I thought. No, I think my dream guest is probably someone I've never even met yet. But that somebody who's in a village somewhere that's been keeping, that, that knowledge, and they maybe nobody else in the village may even know that they have that knowledge. But, that I think, that's my dream best guest to find that person and just tease out a little more about. Yeah, what having that knowledge and whether they're able to share it or what it's meant to them.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 11:21

Hmm. Yeah, for sure. Speaking of Georgians, I can see that Shota is in the waiting room. Shall we let him in?

Susan Thompson 11:27

Oh, yes. Is he your Shota from Oxford,

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 11:30

Yes. Yeah. So good bridge there. And, yeah, so I'm, we're curious to know, like, our audiences dream guests. Who would you like to hear on the podcast? And so maybe have a think about that? So are there any lowlights of your year Susan?

Susan Thompson 11:53

Yes. Yeah. I mean, I'm really grateful to the podcast, because otherwise I wouldn't be in Georgia at all. But getting COVID in Georgia. It wasn't the best week of my life, shall we say? *laughter* Yeah. Yeah, that was that was kind of worrying. And, you know, I'm, I'm out the other side, which is great. And yeah, I feel like I'm back to normal. And Philip says, Yeah, I'm now just walking half as fast as him rather than really, really slowly and like three quarters as fast as him. So yeah, I think I'm kinda back to normal. But yeah, it's kind of worrying when, when you're dealing with people on the phone, who are going, what do you mean, you don't speak English? Do you speak Russian? No, we can try English or French? Nope, just put the phone down. And then you get another phone call in a couple of hours. Very caring, and considerate, and trying to keep an eye but yeah, you know, a little worrying.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 12:56

I'm so glad that you're healthy. And out the other side of it.

Susan Thompson 12:59

Me too.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 13:00

Yeah. Here's to a healthy 2021.

Susan Thompson 13:06

I'll drink to that.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 13:07

I'll drink my 'mulled tea' to that. Cheers. Mm, I'm, um looking forward to developing the podcast, I think in 2021. And like, one thing that we touched on earlier was about the [Ko-fi](#), which has been great. And for like, little bits, like, like you said about the microphone. But we're also thinking, how can we make this sustainable? And like, if people do want us to continue? I mean, I wanna continue making it. I don't know about our listeners, if they want us to continue making it - be great to know, *laughter* if you do. But how, how can we? I guess how can we make it sustainable? Like in terms of money, like, I don't, we don't like the word monetization, it feels a bit dirty. But if we were to bring on like, sponsors, or something, who would you? Who would you want to hear from, I guess, halfway through a podcast episode, what kind of advert? Would you be not annoyed to hear that? That's what I'd like to know from our listeners, actually, because one day, we might get to that stage of someone wanting to give us money to put time into making this. So be useful to know that kind of thing. Like, yeah, what kind of sponsors would be good sponsors for Voices Of The Ancestors?

Susan Thompson 14:44

Yeah, I've just I just read a message - Ashlyn thank you for putting your, your dream guest in the, in the chat. That's, that's so cool. And when we get to that point, we can, we can visit that I think. Oh, there's lots more ideas arrived now. Ah ha, this is Geoff.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 15:03

Oh, great. Okay, let's, so was there anything else that that you wanted to say Susan before we hear from our guests?

Susan Thompson 15:11

(muffled sound) I wanted to thank, that sort of gratitude. Because right at the beginning, we started keeping a list of people that had helped us. So, so I know, you know, before we even had a logo, I mean, your friend helped us by developing something and Hazel

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 15:29

Lydia

Susan Thompson 15:30

My, my daughter put some time into it. And just those two people, you know, putting different visual things out there. So we actually had something at the time we needed it. So that you didn't just put it, the podcast up on soundcloud, with sort of a white square.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 15:44

Right - it makes such a difference. Doesn't it? Having a good logo?

Susan Thompson 15:48

Yeah, yeah, it really does. Yeah. And it's nice that the symbol, the borjgali, has been recognised by different people. Oh, yeah. I'm sure Nino was one of them, kind of went, well, I just knew just what it was and what that symbol meant that, that sort eternity. That idea of eternity and how that works with Voices Of The Ancestors. So and I'm, like I say, I'm sure there are other people on that list that we haven't said thank you to. But if we missed you off, thank you for whatever you did. Thank you, whether it was giving me a biscuit when my sugar levels had gone low, or whatever.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 16:23

Yeah, I know, and the, I guess Teo at the [Conservatoire](#) and [Khatuna](#) at the Batumi Festival for like.

Susan Thompson 16:30

Absolutely.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 16:31

Getting that that launch I think was so fabulous in October to really hit the ground running.

Susan Thompson 16:37

Yeah, that was wonderful.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 16:39

And what I would like to know, from our guests who've been on the podcast, that's Jen and Nino. Like, just what impact it might have had on you. And have there been any unexpected um.. interactions since we've released the episode or Yeah, just how was that experience for you?

Susan Thompson 17:00

Looks like I should, we should be unmuting Jen, to me and then first and then perhaps going to Nino.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 17:07

Okay, let's hear from Jen.

Jen Morris 17:11

Um, I got a very surprising ... I've had some very surprising interactions with a lovely woman from Belgium. Named Els Pauwels. She's been sending me voice messages over Facebook Messenger. And she'll tell me like, how the weather is that day. But then also I so we, we became Facebook friends, but we didn't know each other. And at some point, I wrote her and said, so it seems like the things we might have in common are Svaneti. Maybe there's an interest in the mountains and old, traditional singers. And maybe you speak Dutch. But that's all I can figure out about you. Like, who are you? And where do you live? So we've, we've had this exchange back and forth. And it all started when I wrote her that message. But then after that, she listened to the podcast, and listen to my episode, and then um just commented, and then we started getting to know each other. I've never been to Belgium. I didn't know I had a friend in Belgium. But now I do, thanks to your podcast. *Laughter*

Susan Thompson 18:27

Wow.

Jen Morris 18:27

So. Yeah, so I mean, the worldwide connections through Georgian music, that I already felt we're so big and interconnected - somehow are bigger and more connected than they were in 2019. So

Susan Thompson 18:47

OK

Jen Morris 18:48

Yeah

Susan Thompson 18:49

So not everything is to be burned about 2020 then.

Jen Morris 18:52

No, there have been some really good things - I mean the fact that all, here we are - we're in Oxford, Cambridge, London, Tbilisi, Seattle. The fact that we're all here meeting together, which we never would have done before, we could have done before, but we, we wouldn't have done. That's just amazing. So

Susan Thompson 19:18

Cool.

Jen Morris 19:19

Yeah, not everything. Not everything about 2020 needs to get burned down.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 19:24

Maybe saving a little bit of that tree Susan.

Susan Thompson 19:26

Yeah. *Laughter*

Music - Kirialesa a New Year's song sung by Tutarchela Jugenchor 19:27

Susan Thompson 20:37

and I want to know from Nino now if she's had any unexpected connections or consequences of being on the podcast, can you unmute Nino?

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 20:47

Oh, yeah.

Nino Naneishvili 20:48

Oh, er, I want to say first of all that it's brilliant work to start this unusual meetings. And er it er feels for me something very old, what I remember just in my childhood when my grandma, listen to the radio, and after I her death we lost this radio and did not use it. But this kind of podcast reminds me this mood, when we feel from the radios, information and music, mostly it was music. Sometimes old music sometimes folk, classic everything. But for this time, it was not so popular in Georgia (as) TV. And also it was er 'city war' here. I told about 90 years 1990's. And it was impossible to have electricity, and to have a TV shows as today and just radio sound and music on it and talking and different, about different things. It was just one source for us to hear something different after our family, and I think it's a really brilliant, window this podcast for whole world now. It's a different situation in Georgia also a little bit better than it was. And we have all possibilities internet and TV programmes and everything. But I think this idea of podcast and this frame has something very cosy inside, and very warm. What we, what I think not everybody can catch what it means. And it's something very valuable and so intelligence and I think we will see it in future how big work it will be. And thank you to invite me as one of the guests and one of the first guests it was big responsibility. And I was so proud and also now I'm so happy to be with you. And I received two email from, from Australia. It was - It seems that this woman knows about [laloni](#) and not meet face to face. But she wrote to me so interesting things about this podcast interview. And she said that it was absolutely different resource to view how Georgian singer can think and can talk about us and about ancestors and it was surprise for me because I didn't think that it was so spread - because it's just to begin, your work, and I was so, so happy. Of course today I watch the like um 'winner' writers. It was project in Georgia, brilliant project [Saba/საბა](#). It's so pity that it's not translated and it's without titles, but it's every year this company er.. do like events and for different genres in literature. They contact way to writers and poets. And it was very nice for us that for Georgians. It's not like a behave, to say nice words to each other when they are alive. And it was so very 'true thing', because we have one very nice writer, not young, um, but it appears just now 30 years on. And he was so happy to hear that his writing with so valuable and he said that it's just one thing what makes me happy to continue to write and work. And I think your work also Susan and Holly, it's a big it's stimulated so much for performers and music lovers and singers and everybody. It's so kind, so

kind to work for, for the world, not just for me and for Jen and for somebody. And I think it's work what can and must be always to be in our environment and be with us. And yeah, it's a very special feeling for me, and thank you for this big gift in 2020.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 26:23

Well, there you go Susan our job for life now.

Susan Thompson 26:27

Sounds like it. Well, we're gonna, we'll have to find a way to make it work then.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz

True. Thank you, Nino. Thank you.

Susan Thompson

Yeah.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 26:38

So

Susan Thompson 26:39

I think on our list of dream guests, Ashlyn's the first to write it down. So shall we invite Ashlyn to read his out?

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 26:49

Let's hear from Ashlynn and Miranda, who are in Cambridge, welcome to you two.

Ashlyn 26:55

Yes. We remember meeting Andrea in 2002 - for the first time. We've seen her in quite a few Symposiums in that with or without her babies, or now big boys. And I just think she's such a brilliant singer. And has brought a lot to the, to the level of foreign um. Yeah, it's given us a very high, high bar to try and reach. *Laughter*

Susan Thompson 27:42

As non Georgians.

Ashlyn 27:44

Um non Georgians. Yes, I was I was thinking of non Georgians. And she's really very good.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 27:50

[Andrea Kuzmich](#). Like, I think she's in Canada, right?

Susan Thompson 27:53

Yes.

Ashlyn 27:54

She lives in Toronto.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 27:57

Wonderful. Well, we'll add her to the list.

Susan Thompson 27:59

We certainly will. Now Geoff has written a lot, *laughter*, but I think we should invite Geoff to read them out.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 28:08

Yeah - let's hear from Geoff, I'm loving his suggestions in the chat, but please do read them out for our listeners.

Geoff 28:13

Well, I guess my main thought is, really, if you're doing all the interviews in English, there's not that many people who are the kind of people you want to talk to, who can really express themselves well enough in English. Er.. there's some. Er.. if you start, you, if you work out a way to use a translator, then there's a world more of possibilities. Um I wrote down lots of ideas. I mean, there's [Helen Chadwick](#) is another one in the UK, who is very important in the in history of Georgian music in the UK. Yes, so as um [Tamar Buadze](#) who leads the choir [Turtachela](#), is a really, she's very festive.

Susan Thompson 29:12

So I'm looking through the chat Holly and Teresa Lander has put lots of lovely ideas, but doesn't feel comfortable reading them out. So are you happy if I just read and read through them?

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 29:33

Yeah, I'd love to hear from thank you for joining us, Teresa. It's really nice to have you.

Susan Thompson 29:38

So her dream guests, are [Nina Chandler](#) who brought Georgian singers to Bristol in the 1980s. And just so you know, Teresa, we've already been in contact with Nina and something will happen at some point, which, it will all fit together. And Joe Hale and Sheila Wilkins, who are the other members of the trio Kviria who sing with Nina Chandler. Oh, yeah. [Anthony Johnson](#) from the Bristol Georgian choir. Okay, so I think they're all of Teresa's suggestions. So that's lovely, thank you.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 30:14

Awesome. Thank you Teresa.

Susan Thompson 30:17

And there's a couple of other things in the chat that I think it would be worth just mentioning, which is not dream guests, more ideas for sponsors, potential sponsors.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 30:29

Oh, yeah - Let's hear them.

Susan Thompson 30:31

Sooo, one was from Shota, who suggested that the Georgian government should get involved.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 30:38

Oh, yeah, well I highly agree.

Susan Thompson 30:40

Or should be happy he says to sponsor. Well wouldn't that be wonderful. And then Johnny has got.... Oh, there's Shota on the screen.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 30:51

Oh, yeah. Hello.

Shota 30:54

Oh, hello, everyone. Yeah. Merry Christmas.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 30:57

Merry Christmas.

Susan Thompson 30:58

Merry Christmas.

Shota 31:01

I think I put the Georgian Government because the you guys are doing the crazy job. I mean, it's so, so nice to hear, like, that you promoting not only, like, the folk music, it's about the culture and it's about, the Georgia. I was working for Georgia, like almost 10 years for Georgian Government. I'm sure that this will be the best time of no marketing, or AdWords or promotion or whatever you say they are the countries to kind of, to see how nice, the nice people smile in very positive energy. Great job. And, yeah, I'll be happy to call, communicate back to the country and see what we can do. What will be kind of Yeah, the way to cooperate, I guess. Yeah. So I'm very excited about this - supporting the project, as well, which is very nice.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 32:05

Thanks Shota, Thank you.

Susan Thompson 32:07

Awesome. But it kind of leads on nicely to the suggestions that Johnny made for sponsors, which was about. This is imagining a world in the future where travel is possible. And you can stay in hotels and meet people. So imagine that world - I know, I know, it feels a little difficult, but it's there somewhere. So ideas for Georgian hoteliers, or restaurateurs or tour guides or

translation services and language teachers and music teachers and instrument classes. And Georgian businesses based in the UK in Europe and USA. So I happen to know that there's a Georgian chain here that is opening, was opening, it's first, it's a cafe called 'Entier' ([Entrée](#)) I think, anyway, it's opening its first branch in London. So these, these companies do exist.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 33:01

Oh Yeah, I want to have an advert for bakery, a Georgian bakery in London on the podcast. Yes please.

Susan Thompson 33:07

[Entrée](#) - that's what it's called.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 33:08

Yeah. Will they send us free pastries I wonder?

Susan Thompson 33:11

Oh, well, we'll see.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 33:16

Yeah, um, okay, great. So is there anyone else that we need to hear from um just wave your hand wildly.

Susan Thompson 33:27

I can see Nino's put something

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 33:30

um, Jen's just said I have an idea for sponsors. Let's hear from Jen and then Nino.

Jen Morris 33:37

So just adding on to the idea of earlier in the episode you said what, what kind of ads would you not mind terribly hearing in the middle of a podcast episode? There's such great music background music in your episodes and if there were a way to tie that in I mean, I know you do say like oh, this is Music by laloni. But if it, if you if there are a way to add in, like, more of folk music recordings, folk groups that are releasing albums now and say, you know, [Didgori](#) has a new album, [laloni has a new album](#) and that kind of thing. And then how can, how can listeners support them as well, because I know that so many of your listeners would love to support Georgian musicians. And there's not really a good way unless you can get there to get the CD from a singer in person. There's not really a great way for people outside of Georgia to, to get new music. New old music.

Susan Thompson 34:54

Yeah, yeah.

Jen Morris 34:56

So if there were a way to tie in, like a little bit, bit of support for the two of you, for Voices of the Ancestors, but also promote Georgian groups. And then I don't know maybe add in the [Folklore Centre](#) or the [government](#) or something, some somebody who could add the money piece of it?

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 35:18

But money, Yeah, yeah, yes, you've got you've got folk groups, you've got podcasts, none of these people have that much money. And then

Jen Morris 35:27

No, no, I know.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 35:29

I love that suggestion. Thank you, Jen. And such a big part of why we're doing this is just to introduce people to more varied folk music, folk music from particularly women in Georgia, because I know I've heard a few, like, radio programmes or TV programmes, and whenever they talking, talking about Georgia and trying to introduce the music, I always hear these big men's choirs. And like you said in your episode that is needed sometimes - there's a time and a place for that. But sometimes, we want to hear women's voices too. So sure, we want to Yeah, we want to get the support out there to the actual Georgians making the actual music.

Jen Morris 36:07

Yes, that is what I mean.

Susan Thompson 36:07

Yeah, I just say to anybody listening, um, we have a [website](#), and it has a resources section. And there's a little message at the top that says, if you think you've got something that ought to be on here, then send us a message. I haven't had any messages yet. But you know, if there are groups out there that have got some recordings on Soundcloud or Bandcamp, or whatever, if they send me the links and the information, then it can sit in that on that [resource page](#), which isn't. It isn't what the whole entirety of what you're thinking, Jen, but it's, it's a start.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 36:48

Yeah, great. Let's hear from Nino because she's put 'historical' guests in the chat.

Nino Naneishvili 36:55

Yes, I want to just note that if you decide to do like episodes about our historical thinkers, woman thinkers who was in the past very famous, and they did a lot for Georgian music. It would be nice to touch also Mingrelian singers, Elene Chubabria, Quionia Baramia, but um, yeah, it's the several recordings in the archives, from her voices, it's amazing recordings. And also, it's more contemporary singer, but she did. She created her own style of performing in contemporary Georgian folk music. It was Tina Zhvania, she was a member of [Sathanao](#), our teacher and yeah, very nice speaker and maybe it will be interesting for you.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 37:51

That's a great idea. Thank you, Nino.

Susan Thompson 37:56

I'd love to hear from Bernard because he's got some great suggestions in the chat. Perhaps Bernard could read them out or speak to them.

Bernard 38:03

Yeah, I just said I'd love to hear an episode with the [Chamgeliani sisters](#), in Svaneti. I keep hearing little anecdotes from other people about, about them. Yes, we'll see. I mean, you know, I can talk a little bit with them. But because, the, my Georgian is not yet quite good enough to get the full, the full detail of some of some of their stories. I am very curious to know more in depth.

Susan Thompson 38:36

I have an idea about that for, because, I discovered recently, much to my surprise, that Mark Jackson's wife, Irena was, went up to Lakhushdi as the translator when they first started the '[Singing Village](#)'. So unfortunately, everybody, well not everybody, but, but there are some people in Georgia who are much more concerned about COVID because the COVID rates are very high here. So you know, the opportunity to meet with a translator and take a translator to, to Svaneti is probably, just can't be done at the moment. But whether something could be done on Zoom or - who knows....

Bernard 39:15

Mmm they're often in Tbilisi, though.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 39:19

And I can think of a few of our guests like Zoé or Nana Mzhavanadze who are close with Chamgelianis who could help us. So is there anything else before we stop recording that we want to say? Or shall we go into our little informal chat.

Susan Thompson 39:37

Well, I'm just gonna mention two of the other wild suggestions because they're just such fun.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 39:41

Oh yes I love wild suggestions.

Susan Thompson 39:43

One is Ashlyn saying the [Mandilli Trio](#)

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 39:50

Oh - Let's do it.

Susan Thompson 39:51

And the other is Bernard going well. [Anzor Erkomaishvili](#) of course. *Laughter* And I think both of those suggestions are awesome.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 40:02

I mean, yeah, I wonder what would happen if we interviewed the Trio Mandilli, like, our listeners might like boost hugely because they are really like viral on the internet. I like this idea. It is quite a wild suggestion because they are not considered to be like, a folk group, really. They are more like a popular. They are sort of updating folk songs aren't they. They film themselves often walking and playing panduri, in a beautiful backdrop, with mountains in the background so their videos get a lot of attention on-line.

Susan Thompson 40:45

Well I think, one of the advantages of the podcast, Holly, is that we are not academics, we are not studying at the Conservatoire so we can treat 'folk rules' as perhaps, more like 'guidelines'.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 40:58

I like it, yeah, - there's no snobbery here.

Music by laloni

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 41:07

Thank you for listening to Voices Of The Ancestors with Holly Taylor-Zuntz and Susan Thompson. Our special guests were Jen Morris and Nino Naneishvili as well as our live Zoom audience. You heard music from laloni, Sakhloba, Turtachela Jugenchor and Tutarchela. For more information about this and other episodes and to read a transcript of all our episodes visit [Voicesoftheancestors.co.uk](https://voicesoftheancestors.co.uk).

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