Press Kit 2.3.2023

**for Voices of the Ancestors Podcast**

## 

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### **Description**

Voices of the Ancestors is a captivating podcast exploring Georgian polyphonic songs and the women who sing them. Do you love exploring different cultures? Are you uplifted by folk-stories and songs? Then ‘Voices of the Ancestors’ is the show for you. ‘Bee’s’ 5 star review says it all -

*“such an interesting podcast, featuring beautiful voices, stories and songs from Georgia. Full of emotion, heart and wonderful music. I had no knowledge of this topic before listening, but love hearing from the people, teachers and singers of these traditional songs - a hidden gem of the world.”*

Hosted by Holly Taylor-Zuntz and Susan Thompson. Two British women, who have been enchanted by this music genre - and they’re not the only ones - UNESCO proclaimed Georgian polyphony an ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity’.

In Voices of the Ancestors podcast, Holly and Susan speak to women singers of Georgian polyphonic songs, both in Georgia and abroad. They discuss the journey of the songs and the stories behind them. The list of guests spreads across the globe, wherever folks have been touched by the harmonies of Georgia. In series one you hear Joan Mills, Voice Director at The Centre for Performance Research; Nino Naneishvili leader of Geogian women’s ensemble Ialoni; Magda Kevlishvili co-leader of Ethnomusic Theatre after Edisher and Gigi Garakanidze, Mtiebi and children’s ensemble Amer-Imeri; Dr Nana Mzhavanadze and Briget Boyle, voice coach and singer with American ensembles Kitka and True Life Trio.

So where do the ancestors come in? Well, these ancient songs have been passed down from generation to generation, and now they are being passed on to those outside of the Republic of Georgia, by a new generation of teachers. You feel connected to the past when you sing them and you can feel the ancestors’ energy in the music.

Quote from Vanio Papadelli, London-based independent movement/physical theatre artist and regular lecturer in various HE Institutions (Goldsmiths, Rose Bruford College and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance), Movement Director.

*“ Wow! You're passionate and share so much knowledge and wonderful women singers' voices. I'll listen to the last one slowly over the week. Oh thanks for pointing me to these. Truly inspiring and they're taking me back to my days with ‘Song of the Goat’. Also, I"m co-running a workshop for women on ancestry/roots in March so you've given me some inspiration for the music. And have been looking into circular dances as well so thanks for your podcasts!”*

### **How to Listen to ‘Voices of the Ancestors’ Podcast (A 1,2,3 guide)**

**1.** Here is our show’s website [www.voicesoftheancestors.co.uk](http://www.voicesoftheancestors.co.uk) - you can find all the episodes and transcripts on the website.

**2.** Here is how you listen to an episode:-

If you have never listened to a podcast before, go to our website [www.voicesoftheancestors.co.uk](http://www.voicesoftheancestors.co.uk) on the homepage you click on the latest episode or the shorter introductory trailer.

If you are a seasoned podcast listener you can find us on these platforms:-

**Soundcloud:** <https://soundcloud.com/voicesoftheancestors>

**Apple Podcasts:** **Bitly link:** <https://apple.co/32o8o3h>

[https://podcasts.apple.com/.../voices-of-the.../id1535335253](https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/voices-of-the-ancestors/id1535335253?fbclid=IwAR05B4aDPMNJq5Axvc0MeHxp5DVjbN5aWbrTBdfCzjH-vFuBT3hZJKtemrU)

**Spotify: Bitly link:** <https://spoti.fi/2GDvoDP>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0yjDlYlQRU6VQAXEbbhR3x?si=d9qjxesfT9SpKbr-Suj20w>

**Google Podcasts: Bitly link:** <https://bit.ly/357zpd9>

<https://www.google.com/podcasts?feed=aHR0cHM6Ly9mZWVkcy5zb3VuZGNsb3VkLmNvbS91c2Vycy9zb3VuZGNsb3VkOnVzZXJzOjg4NzkyOTgxNi9zb3VuZHMucnNz&fbclid=IwAR1iT5JaC95aTsmhtT2kavziu97pV7Pvd6TvEgEv49J_1_HwiRkF7PYQGDU>

**Amazon Podcast:**

<https://www.amazon.com/Voices-of-the-Ancestors/dp/B08K582DLV/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Voices+of+the+Ancestors&qid=1612595229&s=audible&sr=1-1>

**3.** Here’s a great episode to start with [Episode 3: Healing Songs and Circle Dances with Nino Naneishvili](https://soundcloud.com/voicesoftheancestors/3-healing-songs-and-circle-dances-with-nino-naneishvili)

Enjoy!"

### **Support Voices of the Ancestors**

by [joining the mailing list](http://eepurl.com/hhgoOf) or donating a cup of coffee/mint tea at [Ko-fi](https://ko-fi.com/voicesoftheancestors)

or become a patron of the podcast at

<https://www.patreon.com/voicesoftheancestor>s.

**Find us on Social**

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<https://twitter.com/VoicesAncestors>

**Facebook**: @georgianpolyphony

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/georgianpolyphony/>

**Instagram:** [https**:**//www.instagram.com/voicesoftheancestors/](https://www.instagram.com/voicesoftheancestors/)

**Wordpress Blog:** <https://voicesoftheancestors.wordpress.com/>

[Sara Pascoe in Georgia](https://voicesoftheancestors.wordpress.com/2021/01/09/sara-pascoe-in-georgia/)

**Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9iEXuhX7g6xhtMn4pIfKqA>

**Ko-fi:** <https://ko-fi.com/voicesoftheancestors>

**Patreon:** <https://www.patreon.com/voicesoftheancestor>s

**Mailing list sign up**: <http://eepurl.com/hhgoOf>

## **Images**

A picture containing two women with microphone. One blue eyed and young the other brown eyed and older. 

Description automatically generated

Photo by Nino Khundadze

A picture containing younger woman with headphones and an older woman. Both women seated in front of microphone.

Description automatically generated

Photo by Nino Khundadze

## **Logo no background**



![Map of Voices of the Ancestors podcast listeners

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**Map of Voices of the Ancestors podcast listeners (source Soundcloud)**



## **Holly Taylor-Zuntz**

[[Holly Taylor-Zuntz](https://hollytaylor-zuntz.com/about-me/)](https://hollytaylor-zuntz.com/about-me/) is a voice leader, song collector and multi-disciplinary artist from Oxford who has been living between Georgia and the UK and studying Georgian songs for the last five years.

Her practice involves embodied voice work, exploring how the voice resonates in different parts of one’s body, and how that resonance can create a fuller ensemble sound. Holly received funding from Arts Council England to develop her practice as a singing leader. And now leads [[Oxford Kalta Choir](https://hollytaylor-zuntz.com/kaltachoir/)](https://hollytaylor-zuntz.com/kaltachoir/) – ‘Georgian Polyphony in women’s voices’. To join her workshops or choirs visit her website www.hollytaylor-zuntz.com.

She is a member of the Natural Voice Network, a graduate of the European Theatre Arts (BA) Programme at [[Rose Bruford College](https://www.bruford.ac.uk/)](https://www.bruford.ac.uk/), London’s International Drama School of Theatre & Performance. She trained in ensemble theatre and devising.

As Holly says in [**Joan Mills on the Continuum of Theatre and Song**](https://soundcloud.com/voicesoftheancestors/7-joan-mills-on-the-continuum-of-theatre-and-song) (Series 1 [Episode 7](https://voicesoftheancestors.co.uk/voices-of-the-ancestors-all-episodes))

*"When I was training in* [Gardzienice](https://gardzienice.net/) *in Poland, I was introduced to Georgian songs, and I was just completely blown away and fascinated. Later that year I went to Georgia and of course fell in love with the country and the folk songs."*

## **Susan Thompson**

Susan is a Georgian polyphonic folk song enthusiast. Her moment of discovery was while singing with ['Woven Chords'](http://www.wovenchords.com/), a community choir in Stamford, UK. Joining [Maspindzeli](http://https;/maspindzeli.org) in 2004 and [performing](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SNKI4vG_q0&ab_channel=serendipping) both in Georgia and the UK, Susan lived in Georgia Oct 20 – Nov 2021 during Covid lockdown.

She presented about Voices of the Ancestors podcast at the [International Symposia on Traditional Polyphony](https://polyphony.ge/en/he-10th-anniversary-international-symposium-on-traditional-polyphony/) in Tbilisi and the [[Giorgi Garakanidze International Festival](https://youtu.be/iTPS8YvOTSM)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTPS8YvOTSM&ab_channel=SusanThompson)of Folklore and Spiritual Music in Batumi and [[Georgian Studies Day](https://www.facebook.com/annualGSDUK/)](https://www.facebook.com/annualGSDUK/) at [[University of Westminster](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/)](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/).

In 2019 [Maka Khardziani](https://polyphony.ge/en/maka-khardziani/) interviewed her for the Bulletin of the International Research Centre for Traditional Polyphony of the V. Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire: **Voices of the Ancestors** **- An English Woman's Journey through Georgian Folk Songs and Singers** [Bulletin 27](http://polyphony.ge/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Bulletin-27-ENG-%E1%83%90%E1%83%A1%E1%83%90%E1%83%A2%E1%83%95%E1%83%98%E1%83%A0%E1%83%97%E1%83%98.pdf).

## **Contact Information**

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