

Recording scripts

Unit 7

Listening Part 4

Recording script CD1 Track 19

Speaker 1: I've been involved in traditional music since I was a kid. My father was well known round here as a singer of the old songs. He sang at family gatherings, and he also played the accordion in a band that performed at weddings and other local functions. My grandfather was a genuine traditional singer who had a whole repertoire of family songs that had been passed down from generation to generation. All the songs were handwritten in a big book. As he got older he relied more and more on the book, but his voice was strong until he died. I'm proud to say I continue to sing some of the family songs – but not just in our village. I've travelled all over the world and played in front of audiences of thousands. It would have made my grandfather smile.

Speaker 2: Until a few years ago I'd thought of tango as something that only older people did, but then we went to a concert by the Gotan Project when they were playing in London, and I couldn't believe how exciting tango could be. For a start the music was amazing. As well as having normal tango instruments – the violin and guitar and bandoneon – they also used electronic music – you know, samples and beats. The rhythm was so infectious that some people got up and bopped in front of the stage, whether they could actually tango or not. Since then, I've joined a class and learned some of the basic moves.

Speaker 3: I love my iPod and quite frankly I'd be lost without it. I listen to it nearly all the time, whether I'm commuting, exercising or trying to drown out some noise and relax. I mainly listen to rock music, but I quite like jazz and I even listen to classical stuff if I'm feeling stressed – it can be very relaxing listening to composers like Mozart if you're in a crowded train or sitting in a traffic jam somewhere. It's a brilliant invention. I've got over seven thousand songs on mine – that's nearly my whole CD collection and of course I download stuff from time to time – usually single tracks rather than whole albums.

Speaker 4: I'm trying to start a jazz band with a friend – I play percussion and Ed plays trombone, but our main interest is composing. The band we have in mind would have seventeen players – obviously we wouldn't be professional, at least not until we'd built up a reputation. Most of the musicians we're approaching play in various different outfits – rock, jazz, folk and classical – so they wouldn't be available all the time. We're hoping to make a CD but the logistics are a nightmare. Rehearsals would be tricky – getting so many people into a studio at once, and there'd be the expense. So at the moment it's just a dream.

Speaker 5: I've just come back from Womad in Singapore – it was awesome. I went with a few friends and we got in for free because we were in the hospitality crew. We had to carry loads of stuff from one place to the next, but we still had plenty of time to get into the music – dance around like mad. We got to talk to quite a lot of the acts – we got signatures and photos. It was a great experience, especially when the artists thank you for doing such a good job. There was a really great line-up of artists. Most of them I'd never heard of before, but I'll be listening to them from now on – until next year's festival.

Speaking Part 2

Recording script CD1 Tracks 20 and 21

Candidate 1: OK, I'll start with this photo – it shows a girl playing chess, maybe with her father. They must be concentrating hard. I used to play chess, but I wasn't very good – I haven't got that kind of brain. I found it really difficult to concentrate. In fact, I never won a game of chess, so I stopped playing after a while. Now in this picture people are cooking, and I love cooking, I don't cook because I have to, I do it because I enjoy it, especially at the weekends when I've got plenty of time. I don't usually follow recipes. I prefer making things up for myself.

Candidate 2: I'm going to compare the chess photo and the one of the people cooking. To play chess you need a very logical mind, you need endless patience and most of all you need to be highly competitive. I think you'd die of boredom if you didn't care whether you won or not. As far as cooking is concerned, I think being a successful cook is probably more to do with creative instinct than just practical skills. I mean anyone can follow a simple recipe, but not everyone can make good food. Why do people enjoy doing these things? I think chess players like solving complex problems, they enjoy challenging their own brain; and of course they want to win. Cookery is more imagination, people who enjoy cooking like making something that'll bring pleasure to themselves and other people.