

PARTICIPANT INVITATION LETTER

You are being invited to participate in a research study. Before you agree it is important that you understand what your participation would involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

Who am I?

I am a Postgraduate student in the School of Psychology at the University of East London and am studying for MSc in Applied Positive Psychology and coaching Psychology. As part of my studies I am conducting the research you are being invited to participate in.

What is the research?

I am conducting research into the wellbeing of musicians across the lifespan.

My research has been approved by the School of Psychology Research Ethics Committee. This means that my research follows the standard of research ethics set by the British Psychological Society.

Why have you been asked to participate?

You have been invited to participate in my research as someone who fits the kind of people I am looking for to help me explore my research topic. I am looking to involve those who have been employed as a musician for the majority of their working life, with a minimum age of 60.

I emphasise that I am not looking for 'experts' on the topic I am studying. You will not be judged or personally analysed in any way and you will be treated with respect.

You are quite free to decide whether or not to participate and should not feel coerced.

What will your participation involve?

If you agree to participate you will be asked to

- engage for 60-90 mins in a one to one informal chat on the topic of wellbeing and what it means to you
- agree to the chat being recorded on a dictaphone
- agree on a mutually agreeable location to meet

I will not be able to pay you for participating in my research but your participation would be very valuable in helping to develop knowledge and understanding of my research topic

Your taking part will be safe and confidential

Your privacy and safety will be respected at all times.

- Participants will not be identified by name by the data collected, on any written material resulting from the data collected, or in any write-up of the research.
- Participants do not have to answer all questions asked of them and can stop their participation at any time

- Where there is risk of a participant being identified through the information they disclose within the interview, this will be carefully handled when written up so as to maintain anonymity.

What will happen to the information that you provide?

What I will do with the material you provide will involve:

- Personal contact details securely stored on a password protected file where only I will have access to them.
- Participants' names and contact details will not be linked to the data/material they provide. All names will be changed in data written up.
- Anonymous data will be seen by supervisor and examiners and may be published in academic journals.
- After the study has been completed the data will be safely stored with myself having the only access to it. This includes contact details of participants, interview recordings and transcripts.

What if you want to withdraw?

There is a 14 day 'cooling off period' following the interview where you can request that all or part of the interview data is omitted from the analysis.

You are free to withdraw from the research study at any time without explanation, disadvantage or consequence. However, if you withdraw I would reserve the right from 14 days after the interview to use material, including fully anonymised interview extracts that you provide up until the point of my analysis of the data.

Contact Details

If you would like further information about my research or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on U1620023@uel.ac.uk

If you have any questions or concerns about how the research has been conducted please contact the research supervisor Dr Marie Stopforth, School of Psychology, University of East London, Water Lane, London E15 4LZ,
Email: m.stopforth@uel.ac.uk

or

Chair of the School of Psychology Research Ethics Sub-committee: Dr Mary Spiller,
School of Psychology, University of East London, Water Lane, London E15 4LZ.
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