



ADVANCING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN SINGING

***A Musical Portrait of Singing and Identity:
Elder Angelenos' Experiences and Impressions of
Singing in Youth and as Seniors***

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**Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada**

**Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada**

OVERVIEW

Part of: AIRS Theme 2.1 - Education

Began the study with the idea of exploring intergenerational learning and songs of the elderly in an urban context--
Angeleno families of different ethnicities

Our data pointed a different direction which explains why the report is different from the original protocol objectives



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Posters were developed to invite the community to participate in the AIRS study

Welcome to the Music Education Department of USC Thornton School of Music!

노래와 삶에 관한 대화의 공간에 귀하를 초대합니다!

본 연구는 로스앤젤레스 지역에 거주하는 노인들의 삶 속에 묻어있는 노래와 그들의 이야기를 기록하려는 목적으로 시행하게 되었습니다. 65세 이상의 어르신들은 누구나 본 연구에 참여 가능하며, 귀하의 선호도에 맞추어 몇 개의 노래를 들려주셔야 합니다. 인터뷰를 통해 귀하의 개인적인 삶과 음악적 경험에 관한 이야기를 나누게 되지만, 연구 과정에서 귀하의 신상 정보는 철저히 보호됩니다. 본 연구를 통해 로스앤젤레스 지역 노인들의 삶과 음악에 대한 소중한 정보를 얻을 수 있기를 기대합니다.

연구 참여에 관한 문의사항은:
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Email: singingelders@gmail.com

USC Thornton
School of Music

Welcome to the Music Education Department of USC Thornton School of Music!

We would like to invite you to be part of a conversation about singing...

Welcome to the Music Education Department of USC Thornton School of Music! We would like to invite you to be part of a conversation about singing...

We are interested in learning about singing experiences of elderly persons living in Los Angeles. Little is currently known about the songs that individuals over the age of 65 enjoy singing. If you are over the age of 65, we would like to ask you to talk about your musical experiences—past and present. You will be asked to sing some songs (or part of songs) of your preference. Although you will be sharing musical aspects of your life with us, you and your information will not be identified in connection with this study.

If you have questions or are interested in participating, please contact:
Dr. Beatriz Ileri, Ph.D.
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Interview Protocol

4 sections

- About yourself
- Childhood memories of singing experiences
- Teenage years
- Singing, music learning, and elders
- Fifth section for added questions if immigrants

Stereotyped images of elders did not emerge in the study from the original protocol... “images of singing grandmothers, mature caregivers, singing with children and grandchildren...”



Research Questions

- What do elders recall about singing at different times in their lives?
- What songs and artists do elders identify?



Method

Participants

Selected eight (n = 8) participants
4 Koreans, 2 Anglo, 2 Hispanic
Between ages 65 – 93

In-depth, semi-structured interviews

we followed the interview questions but wanted a semi-structured approach so that we could adjust or expand questions

Transcriptions, Analysis, and Interpretations

Even with eight participants, we have so much data
Began data analysis focusing on similarities



Findings

Main categories focused toward similarities of participants, as related to SINGING, that emerged from the data:

- expression of feelings
- surfacing emotional memories
- connections to forgotten moments
- issues related to recall of music and artists



Expression of feelings

- Memories of enjoying music in their younger years
- Sadness about limited formal experience, yet
- Do not feel their lives would have been “better” with formal music education
- Highlight “on-the-spot memory” as challenged
- Range of “feelings” about singing for camera
- Wisdom – many anecdotes and opinions



Surfacing emotional memories

- Strong nostalgia for songs from birth country
- Musical tastes influenced by religious and familial experiences
- Positive memories of American presentations such as Standard Oil and Firestone (radio/television) classical music broadcasts as introduction and reason for continued music appreciation



Connections to forgotten moments

- Music has held importance to elders throughout their lives
- Report being extremely isolated as elders, and, increasingly so the older they get
- Desire social interaction with peers
- Wish for more opportunities for musical engagement offered in the community



Issues related to recall of music and artists

- Repertoire recalled originated from childhood
- Most frequently from familial and community sources or experiences
- Pop music source for English language learning when immigrating to United States



Lessons Learned

Implications for Education

In our three studies we observed how elder attempts to recall music repertoires and experiences actually related to elders' identities

Further understanding:

- interested in cues researchers can use to better assist elder recall
- understand more about elders' early musical learning
- more song recall and improved ways to support it
- considerations of health and well-being for elders
- continued care in reporting



Thank you AIRS!

YouTube: Delfina

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqn3OFnkrLY>

Abraham



Singing .mp3

