X! : Blog-O-Versary 10.0

Jennifer Stoever

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Abstract

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Keywords

Music (Subfield), Blog-O-Versary, Editorial Collective, Sound Studies, Aaron Trammell, Highlight Reel

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We didn't have a clue where the blog was headed when we started out in 2009, packed into AT's humid apartment on Seminary in Binghamton, alternately helping him pack, looking through his records, and making plans for this writing thing we were going to do together to stay in touch. I had a newborn baby strapped on my chest, Aaron was leaving BU to start a PhD program at Rutgers and Liana was embarking deeply into her dissertation (and just a year later for Kansas City. . .for the full origin story, catch our recent co-authored piece "The Pleasure [is] Principle: *Sounding Out!* and the Digitization of Community" in *Digital Sound Studies*). Our tight-knit research crew was facing so much change and uncertainty, that I'm pretty sure we decided to name the blog *Sounding Out!* as a form of echolocation. If talking and thinking about sound waves had brought us together in the first place, perhaps their resonance could stretch out to fill the unknown contours of the future that lay ahead.

And over the past decade, it has. Not just for us as friends, co-workers, and eventually shared hive-mind cells, but for the field of sound studies, which in the same decade went from "huh?" to "emerging," then from academic hipster cred and to everybody's tryna put "soundscape" in everything, to the *New York Times* magazine does a cover story on it AND you can now get a Masters in it at Northwestern University in Chicago [shout out to *SO!* special editor Neil Verma, who not only edited a media stream for us from 2013-2016 but—among many other awesome things—helped get this very program up and running]. It's no coincidence that the field's trajectory and reach has grown exponentially along with ours, and we are proud as hell of that.

Other things we are most proud of:

- that, on separate occasions in the past year, two brilliant people have told us that reading *SO!* inspired them to go to grad school because our site hosted and valued research on sound by/about women of color (these stories are *literally* our favorite 😭😭😭 and inspire us to go even harder!).
- growing deep, connected relationships among scholars and professionals in the field infused with fun and feeling amongst the brilliance and rigor.
- surpassing one MILLION unique clicks (not that "metrics" has *ever* been our goal but holla!!).
- getting on the podcast tip early (2010!!) and staying weird as hell with it (free format por vida!).
- always being down to shout out and collabo (over the years we've worked with *Antenna*, Locatora Radio, The Radio Preservation Task Force, IASPM-US, Soundbox, *The Middle Spaces*, Tuned City Brussels, WHRW 90.5, *Everything Sounds*, *Not Your Muse*, and The UC Riverside Punk Con, among many others. In 2020 we have something going with the Zora Neale Hurston festival in Eatonville, Florida. . . stay tuned!).
- publishing a post on "Old Town Road." IJS. Our regular writers always bring it. Thank you to Justin Burton and Robin James, our current roster, and to all of our past fam: Regina Bradley, Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo, Maile Colbert, Osvaldo Oyola, and Andreas Pape.

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- pushing so hard for our reach, readership, and coverage to become increasingly global (in the past year we hosted pieces from and/or about Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Cuba, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, and Ukraine).
- developing a strong undergraduate internship program through Binghamton University that brings us literally the best interns in the WORLD 💯. They bring us new ideas, excitement, and new social media accounts, and we entrust them with everything we know about editing and digital publishing. It's been a blast, and we are so proud they've all gone on to do wonderful work in the world.
- that our roster of writers more accurately represents the diversity of sound studies scholars than any other publication out there by leaps and bounds.
- that *SO!* has continued to evolve in interesting ways while strengthening and refining our guiding mission over the years: to find, nurture, and share accessible top-notch scholarship/art/thought that investigates how power impacts how we sound and listen, while amplifying sound studies knowledge toward social justice.
- AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, that so many readers have put their faith in us and so many amazing writers have thought of us as a home for their work. We take your trust so very seriously, and remain humbled by your generosity and confidence. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for being *Sounding Out!* along with us.

I'm trying to keep it short and cute today, not saying too TOO much because this post [our 624th!] is neither a retrospective nor a tribute, but a **celebration**. . .as Diddy once said, we ain't going nowhere! [*Editors' Note:* Other notables JS has referenced in the previous decade of Blog-o-Versary posts includes Bob Marley, LL Cool J, De La Soul, Schoolhouse Rock, Dionne Warwick, the Solid Gold Dancers, S.E. Hinton, Beyoncé, Langston Hughes, X-Ray Spex, A Tribe Called Quest, Fred Moten, Bill Withers, and . . . Taylor Swift. Oof.]. And bet, we have AMAZING things planned for next year, including forums on Soundwalking while POC (starts next week!), the 50th anniversary of Charles Mingus's *Ah Um* (guest edited by Earl Brooks), audiobooks (edited by Liana Silva), and sound and climate change (guest edited by Anja Kanngieser), an undergraduate sound studies showcase, and . . . . . .

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we just finished a book proposal for a *Sounding Out!* anthology: working title *Power in Listening: The* Sounding Out! *Reader.*

[🎉 insert airhorn sound here 🎉]

YES! We couldn't be more grateful for the last ten years, and we couldn't be more excited for what's coming up next. Even though we didn't know where we were headed in 2009, we have arrived nonetheless, and all because we knew what we wanted—to create a community just like this one. Happy X! Blog-o-Versary to all of us, today!

–JLS, LMS, and AT

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XXXXXXXXXX Highlight Reel XXXXXXXXXX

- **Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo** successfully defended her dissertation, and had the chance to open for Bikini Kill in June, under her stage name Sammus. In fall of 2019 she will be starting a two-year postdoc at Brown University's music department, and will be getting married to fiction writer Lance Akinsiku. She is presenting a Making/Doing session at this year's 4S Conference in New Orleans in September.
- **John Melillo** has a new essay on the French sound poet Henri Chopin in *Ties: Journal of Text, Image, and Sound*. His book, *The Poetics of Noise*, is under contract for Bloomsbury's Sound Studies list.
- In summer 2018 **Kristin Moriah** began a position as an Assistant Professor of African American Literary Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. "Where Are the Black Angels?" her review of Mickalene Thomas's historic exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario is forthcoming in *PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art* 123, as is "A Greater Compass of Voice: Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, Mary Ann Shadd Cary and Black Performance in Nineteenth-Century North America," which will be published in *Theatre Research in Canada*. She is excited to attend the ASA annual meeting in Honolulu where she will present "Playing the Red Record: Black Feminist Recording Practices."
- **Phillip Sinitiere** published several pieces on W. E. B. Du Bois in The North Star. He also co-organized a forum on Shirley Graham Du Bois at Black Perspectives. He is the 2019-2020 W. E. B. Du Bois Visiting Scholar at UMass Amherst.
- *SO!* Ed-in Chief **Jennifer Lynn Stoever** published three essays in 2018/19: "'Doing fifty-five in a fifty-four': Cop Voice, U.S. Policing and the Cadence of White Supremacy" (*Interdisciplinary Journal of Voice Studies*), "Black Radio Listeners in America's 'Golden Age'" (*Journal of Radio and Media Studies*), and "Crate Digging Begins at Home: Black and Latinx Women Collecting and Selecting Records in the 1960s and '70s Bronx" in the *Oxford Handbook of Hip Hop Studies,* which you can download for free here.

And remember, the "notes" on our Facebook page is *still the best place to hear about calls for art, calls for posts, and upcoming conferences, shows, and volumes in sound studies. "Like" us here and please continue to keep us in the loop regarding new projects. We love to signal boost, as you can probably tell by our very active Twitter feed!

Clic **here** for *Sounding Out!*'s Blog-O-Versary "X!" mix 10.0 with track listing (and of course which writers suggested which songs)!

—

Jennifer Lynn Stoever *is co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of* Sounding Out! *She is also Associate Professor of English at Binghamton University, lead organizer of The Binghamton Historical Soundwalk Project and author of* The Sonic Color Line: Race and the Cultural Politics of Listening *(NYU Press, 2016).*

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REWIND! . . .If you liked this post, you may also dig:


















- **2018 “Sound the Alarm” mix 9.0**
- **2017 “!!!!Resist!!!!” Blog-O-Versary mix 8.0**
- **2016 Blog-O-Versary “!!!!!!!” mix 7.0**
- **2015 Blog-o-Versary 6.0 Keep on Pushing! (Our 400th post!!)**
- **2014 #flawless 5.0 celebration and mix**
- **2013 Blog-o-Versary 4.0: Solid Gold Summer Countdown!**
- **2012 #Blog-O-Versary 3.0: Can’t Stop Won’t Stop (The Awesomeness)!**
- **2011 “Awesome Sounds from a Future Boombox” 2.0**
- **2010 First Blog-O-Versary party mix: A Celebration of Awesomeness**

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