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Journal of Rural Studies

Volume 25, Issue 2, April 2009, Pages 194-206

Country life? Rurality, folk music and Show of Hands

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2008.10.003>

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Abstract

This paper examines the contribution of folk music to understanding the dynamic, fluid and multi-experiential nature of the countryside. Drawing from literature on the geographies of music, it examines the work of Show of Hands, a contemporary folk band from Devon in England. Three areas are studied. First, the paper examines the musical style of Show of Hands in order to explore how hybridised, yet distinctive, styles of music emerge in particular places. Second, it demonstrates how Show of Hands hybrid musical style has become closely associated with the Southwest of England. Finally, within these spatial and hybrid contexts, attention is given to the ways in which their music represents the everyday lives of the rural. Taken together these themes assess the relevance of music in the understanding of rurality as hybrid space.



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Keywords

Folk music; Rurality; Southwest England; Show of Hands

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