



The Music Room
Conversations about Music
With Zoë Beyers

Episode Six

(First broadcast 11 September 2020)

**Nigel Osborne MBE - composer, educator and
international aid worker**

Programme Notes



By Nigel Osborne - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/160953244@N07/27603605228/in/photostream/>, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=85203096>

Nigel Osborne in 1996 conducting workshops with child war survivors in Mostar.

Nigel Osborne has always chosen a different path. As a young composer and the darling of the classical avant-garde, he went back to his folk and rock roots to compose music theatre instead of opera. Ever curious, he embraces not just the languages of other countries but their folksongs, their culture and their causes. He has taught generations of music therapists their trade and developed and extended his teaching in the field, but is at pains to point out that he is not a music therapist himself.

Osborne's humility is a defining feature: he is a generous and gentle man, but his passion for helping his fellow humans is tangible and has borne fruit the world over. His pioneering methods using the therapeutic power of music were first developed during the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where he worked with traumatised children in Sarajevo during the siege of the city. Today, that work extends to the entire Balkan region, the Caucasus, the Middle East, South East Asia, India and East Africa. To read more about Osborne's remarkable life as an aid worker and humanitarian, click [here](#).

To learn more about *X-System*, developed by Osborne using his model of the musical brain capable of predicting one's emotional response to music, click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to visit the Music for Wellbeing website.

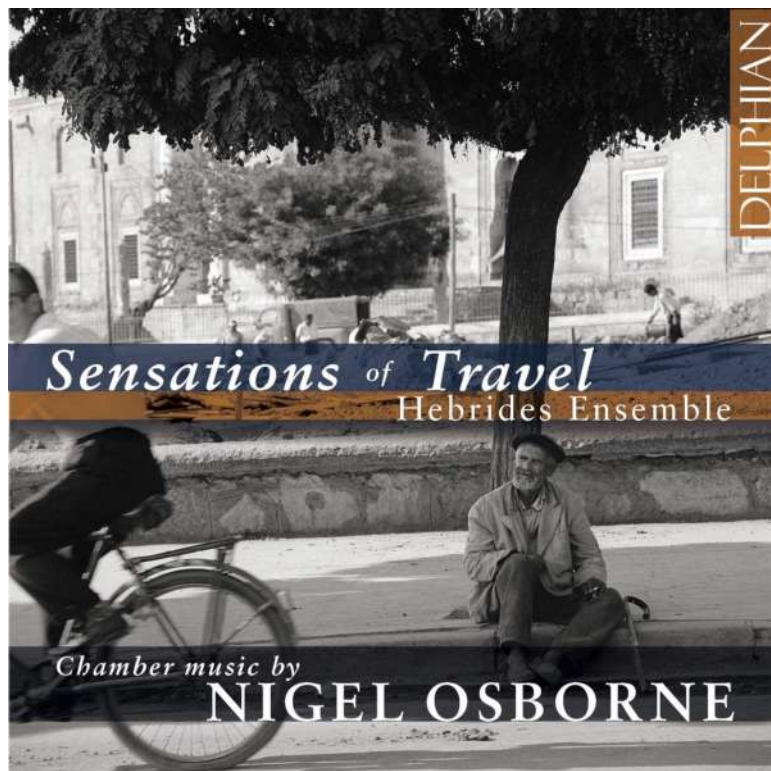
Further listening and watching...

Here is the full version of *Osman Bey and the Snails* - a lockdown opera about the imprisonment in Istanbul of human rights activist [Osman Kavala](#). For more information on Osman Kavala, click [here](#).



Nigel Osborne's decades-long collaboration with Hebrides Ensemble resulted in this critically acclaimed recording to celebrate the composer's 70th birthday.

<https://music.apple.com/gb/album/sensations-of-travel/1450556825>



Osborne's hauntingly beautiful trio *The Piano Tuner*, performed here by [Hebrides Ensemble](#), charts the journey of a piano tuner to the forests of Burma in the 1880s, to tune the piano of an extraordinary British officer who has succeeded in making peace among the warlords by the practice of music and medicine.



Differences in Demolition (a Sevdah opera), composed by Nigel Osborne and performed by Opera Circus. To read more about their work and the fascinating genesis of this piece, click [here](#).

