



Professional musicians spend a lot of time travelling. Seckou has homes in Senegal and in Nottingham in the UK but spends many days of the year on the road, in studios, or on stage. This session considers what life is like behind the scenes and asks questions about how we carry home with us wherever we go.

Background information

- There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to bring a performance or an album to fruition. This session touches on some of those aspects including recording, rehearsing, teaching, travelling, performing, interviews and social media. There are also many other roles needed to support the work including music management, sound engineering, marketing, legal advice, bookings, logistics, photography, tour management and so on. You can use this session as a springboard to raise awareness of the wide range of roles involved in the music industry.
- Seckou is always keen to support and encourage young people in Senegal to find a career in the music industry. The album Homeland: chapter 1 features photography from a young photographer, Taylor Kitoko, based in Ziguinchor. The powerpoint includes a photo of him..

Resources

1. Interview with Seckou
2. Powerpoint including photos and videos

The Session

1. Start the session by asking the group what they think the life of a musician might be like? Acknowledge that a lot depends on the kind of musician we are discussing. Some will be salaried, many are self-employed. It will also depend on where they are based and where they come from.
Musicians who travel a lot have to think about many things including visas, depending on where they are travelling from and to, logistics and promotion. As well as performing, many will also take on additional roles such as teaching and composing.
2. Show the powerpoint which includes photos and videos of some aspects of Seckou's life as a musician. In pairs, ask learners to discuss what roles there might be behind the scenes of a musician. Many of them are listed here <https://www.ukmusic.org/education-skills/careers-in-the-music-industry/>
3. Ask learners to research an area of the music industry that interests them the most.



4. End the session by sharing an interview with Seckou. The powerpoint includes an interview with Seckou where he talks about what travelling for work is like, his homes in Senegal and the UK and what aspects of home he carries with him wherever he goes.

In the interview Seckou talks about home as being like a cake. Senegal is one slice of the cake, Nottingham in the UK is another slice, and other things make up the rest.

Ask learners what might make up their cake of home? Which aspects would be most important to them if they were travelling?