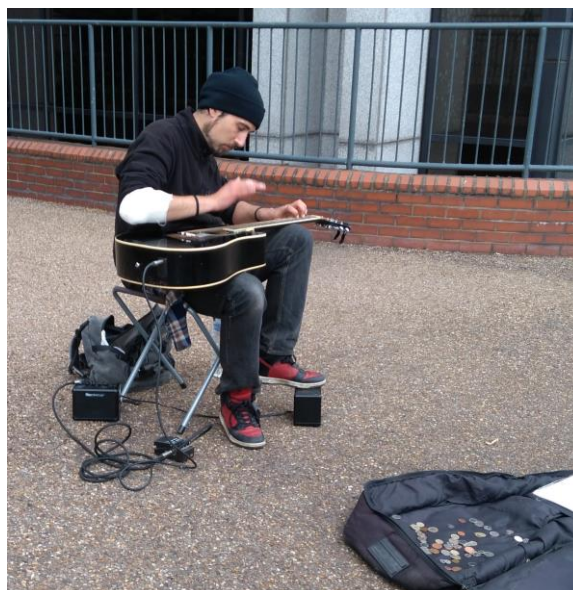


Busker's Code

Buskers, the lazy unemployed citizen trying to make some easy money?

Street art is more than just beggars and teens bettering up their change. It's an art, it's a community and it has traditions. Since the middle ages it is common to have buskers and performers on the streets of bigger cities to entertain the visitors, the travelers, the merchants and the citizens. But be aware! There are always thieves and pickpockets gathering around those artists to find easy and distracted targets, so keep your belongings close to you and enjoy. There are so many things to see: artists performing role plays on the street, musicians playing on flutes made of a hockey stick or the typical singer disburser his heart. But all of them need to follow the busker's code. This code consists of written as well as unwritten laws. For example: If you are performing music you should pass a test first. If you look up the busker's Code on the internet it might be confusing to you because it's quite long and there are exceptions for special places, but if you are a small artist you might find a marked spot for buskers in a tube station. So, next time you visit London and have some spare change think about who you want to give it to. I'd rather give it to a busker performing what he is able to do than to a homeless only sitting there. In my opinion everyone can perform something entertaining. A great example for a successful busker is Passenger. His old band just broke up, he had no job and had quit the university a few years ago. So, he had to choose if he wanted to find a proper job or go back to university or go busking. He decided to go busking and sold his home-made recordings on the street like many of the buskers. He was one of the very few who got very successful with this, but if he's asked about busking in interviews he always tells the same: "You shouldn't go busking for the money, that's not what you're going to get. You have to do it for the experience and you have to be the person to do it."



A quite common picture in London: A street musician near the Globe Theatre.