MA Defence: “Memory is a River: Imbert Orchard and the Sound of Time and Place” By Nathan Clarkson

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Our dear colleague, Nathan Clarkson, will defend her MA Thesis on April 14th, 2015 at Harbour Centre, Room 1530. Here is the abstract of his thesis “Memory is a River”: Imbert Orchard and the Sound of Time and Place”:

Abstract

This thesis is an examination of the radio production techniques and media theories of Canadian Imbert Orchard (1909 - 1991). Throughout his career at the CBC (1959 - 1974) and a brief period as lecturer at Simon Fraser University (1974 - 1978), he championed notions such as ‘aural history' and ‘document in sound' over oral history and documentary. His system of 'levels of remove' intentionally employed acoustic impressions of time and place as a means of representing different historical perspectives within the radio format. Through a comparison with radio documentaries produced by his contemporaries, Glenn Gould (CBC) and the World Soundscape Project (CBC and SFU), the thesis examines a unique period of time on CBC radio and makes apparent a mixture of conservative values with progressive techniques. By analyzing archived materials and production techniques, the thesis aims to situate Orchard alongside these well - documented historical figures of Canadian sound studies in order to emphasize the importance of his concept of aural history.

Keywords: Sound Studies; Oral History; Aural History; CBC; Radio Documentary; Imbert Orchard; Glenn Gould; World Sound scape Project

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