

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

Sibo Chen

School of Communication
Simon Fraser University

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