

I took this assignment to mean “what could the filmmakers have submitted and done during the production if they were more conscious of ethical issues but still producing the film we saw.” I’m addressing the concerns of ethics that perhaps should have originally been addressed while ethically justifying the elements of cinematic styling found in the film. It’s writing an ethics statement informed by the normally impossible gift of knowing exactly what the film you will produce looks like. Obviously an ethics statement of this kind would normally have dramatically influenced the outcome of the film.

### **Honest, contextualized representation of oneself and subject**

We plan to possibly use any footage we get, including potentially embarrassing or upsetting moments. That said, the events presented as ‘real life’ won’t be staged or coerced. They will be a genuine and honest account of what happened presented in the pursuit of a full portrait of Young@Heart. Good taste and, in some cases, the opinion of the choir will be used to determine if shots are appropriate for inclusion into the final edit. Although we’re striving for cinema, accidental appearances by our film crew won’t be edited out of shots we want to use.

Although we have a limited running time and the focus and main interest is in the choir, we will nevertheless try to contextualize the group within the specific places they live, practice, and perform by including exterior shots and narrative information. We will also try to briefly explore what makes Northampton the sort of community that supports this type of activity and has done so for nearly 25 years.

### **Informed consent, mutual respect, active consultation**

Throughout the filming, we’ll regularly show our rough edits and previous day’s footage to the chorus during their rehearsals and solicit comments. This will be especially important when planning and filming the mini-music videos we have ideas for, as they are an obvious departure from reality.

### **Sensitivity to other cultures’ and individuals’ ethical values**

Cultural issues shouldn’t be an issue with the group because of the homogeneity of it, but we will listen to the individual sensibilities of the members. Their wishes regarding their representation will be taken into account via their informed consent and active participation in the filming and editing. In cases where the representation of actual events and the truth are concerned, we may exercise our judgement to include footage despite the wishes of the group if we feel leaving it out would impair the story.

### **Sensitivity to proprietary and economic concerns regarding recorded materials**

The music videos we produce as part of the film will be usable by the chorus as promotional material, and we will not show their performance in its entirety in order to preserve future ticket sales. That said, by the time our film is released, they will likely have a new show. The material we record will be used only for the film and promotion thereof and for a soundtrack that we will negotiate the rights for, possibly with monetary compensation.

### **Knowledge of copyright and potential issues**

The songs Young@Heart sings are all copywritten, so we'll need to buy the rights to use them in our film. Unfortunately, this may mean songs which a) we can't obtain the rights for, or b) are too expensive to obtain the rights for will have to be cut from the final edit. We will strive to make sure the songs we can include however are representative of the choir's ability and repertoire.

### **Reciprocate and don't exploit**

While we will be making a profit from this production, we note that it will also lead to a broader audience for Young@Heart and perhaps even a CD release. In return for them telling us their story, we'll let the world know it.

### **Maintain safety, dignity, privacy (anonymous vs. recognition)**

It's a fact of their age that many of the members of the choir are losing some of their mental acuity, and while this may come up in good footage, we will try to use it and contextualize it in a light hearted, non-judgemental way in order to preserve their dignity. We are aware that there is a fine line between presenting their quirks as "heartwarming" versus "doddering." It is possible some of members will die or experience serious health issues during the filming. This will be presented as part of the inescapable dynamic of such a group. While we hope to capture much personal footage individually with the members, we will respect the privacy of any of them who wish not to be interviewed individually or who don't want certain aspects filmed. As far as safety is concerned, we won't be asking the members to do anything other than what they would normally do by themselves. That said, it is possible members of the chorus will push themselves further than they would otherwise do because of our presence. We cannot do anything about this but insist they look out for their health first and foremost.

### **Long-term commitment even after work is done**

After the film is released, the movie studios will retain the distribution rights and pursue abuses of the content. The raw recorded material will not be available to the general public as a matter of standard practice in the film industry.

### **Publish, archive, and make your work available**

This is a no-brainer since the film will be commercially available after release.