

Andy Locke

Prof. Jeffers Engelhardt

Music 19: PV Soundscapes

4 October 4, 2009

Statement on Ethical Considerations – *The Estey Organ Project*

One of the goals of this class is to create a web-based documentary archive of pioneer valley soundscapes. I, along with my partner, Katie Bayer, am exploring the sacred sounds of the Pioneer Valley through the pipe organs of the Estey organ company. We will be recording multiple organs throughout the valley and interviewing the organists, musical directors, religious leaders, manufacturers and technicians that are tied to them. We will explore how they got here, as well as the impact they've had on the local soundscape and the valley in general. By participating in this project, I have made an obligation to myself, to my peers, to my instructor, to the people I will work with in the field, and to future visitors to the archive. With these responsibilities in mind, I would like to directly address the Society of Ethnomusicology's Position Statement on Ethical Considerations, Section II, and the American Anthropological Association's Code of Ethics, Sections III.A – III.C.

I - Society of Ethnomusicology's Position Statement on Ethical Considerations, Section II

1. I will never willingly state or imply any information that I am not completely confident in the factuality of. I will, to the best of my ability, make my intentions clear to all people involved in the making of the documentary.
2. I will inform any and all persons represented in the documentary of their rights to privacy and confidentiality, as well as the potential of any documentary to unintentionally misrepresent its subjects. I will, whenever possible, obtain written or otherwise recorded documentation of consent to being recorded from all persons represented in the project.
3. I will never willingly violate the ethical values of the cultures and individuals represented in my work, though I do not anticipate this being an issue.
4. I will comply with all federal, state, and local laws concerning copyright, and only utilize non-copyrighted materials with the creator's (or proprietor's) informed, documented consent. I acknowledge the possibility for future misuses of the audiovisual material I obtain by outside parties. I recognize my responsibility for my part in this process, and will seek ways to prevent and/or address any such misuse, such as the unlicensed

commercial sale of the recordings I make.

5. As this is a non-commercial, educational project, I do not anticipate many proprietary or economic concerns. However, should any organist not wish that their work be available for free on-line, I will respect their wishes and not use any recordings of their work.

II - American Anthropological Association's Code of Ethics, Sections III.A – III.C

- A. I will do everything in my power to ensure that the creation of this documentary does not harm the safety, dignity, or privacy of the people with whom I work, conduct research, or perform other professional activities. Towards this end, I will actively consult with the individuals in charge of the Estey organs I record before, during, and after taping, with the goal of establishing a working relationship that can be beneficial to all parties involved. This relationship is crucial if I am to obtain in advance the informed consent of persons being recorded, providing information, owning or controlling access to relevant material, or otherwise identified as having interests which might be impacted by the creation and distribution of the documentary project.

I do not anticipate any that close or enduring relationships will form during creation of this project, as all the work will be completed within one semester.

Finally, I recognize the debt I will owe to the musicians and other individuals who contribute towards the project's success. It is my hope that their hard work will be recognized and appreciated for generations through the web-based archive.

- B. I will not willingly deceive anyone. I will not knowingly misrepresent any information (i.e. fabricate evidence, falsify, or plagiarize). I will not attempt to prevent reporting of misconduct.

I hope that my research sparks a newfound interest in the sacred sounds of the pioneer valley, and will offer whatever support and/or assistance I can to anyone who wishes to explore the subject more thoroughly. By making the project available for free on the web, I am ensuring that is available to all, including the scientific and scholarly community. Were pipe organs a more sensitive issue, I would also include information regarding my political or philosophical biases, however, I feel that individual biases will ultimately have little effect on the sound of an organ or the truth of the organ's story.

In conclusion, I would like to say that my first obligation is to the truth, and I will not

intentionally leave out any information relevant to my central theme because of its sensitive or personal nature, though *I will not record any people or personal events without informed consent*. Finally, I acknowledge that mistakes may be made in the production, but it is my hope that by forming healthy relationships based on mutual respect with the people I meet in the field, these mistakes will not diminish the overall quality of what I hope to be a fun and sonically pleasing documentary.