

NCRA '10 Awards Submission- Documentary
Cognitive Dissonance - "Lightning in a Bottle"

Biography of Producer

Chris Trimmer has long been fascinated by the intersection of science and art. This culminated in a PhD project investigating the psychology of music; though his investigations now manifest themselves in an audio-art infused program on CFRC 101.9fm focusing on the psychological and cultural aspects of music, entitled Cognitive Dissonance.

Description of Submitted Program

Cognitive Dissonance is a show that uncovers the psychological, technological, experimental and social factors behind the music we all listen to, the music we all create. Now in it's third season, each 60-minute episode consists of a musical theme viewed from multiple angles in a documentary format. Every episode is constructed to mirror a musical composition; the use of themes, repetition, counterpoint, and other various musical properties is inherent in the presentation of aural ideas and stories. The aim is to use creative production values in concert with maintaining the intimacy and approachability of community radio.

"Lightning in a Bottle" was an exploration of the 'First Sounds project', a group of researchers committed to the discovery and analysis of Pre-Edison sound recordings (dating as far back as 1863), quite literally the first sounds ever recorded. Featuring an interview with Patrick Feaster, lead researcher on the project, this episode uncovers the process and history behind the recordings of histories forgotten audio documentarian, and eccentric inventor, Eduard Scott de Martinville. By using dramatic re-enactment, creative production and personal exploration, the subject of 'bottling' sounds (i.e. recording audio) for the first time is discussed in it's current day context, and paralleled with the producer's own history of musical recording and re-discovery.

