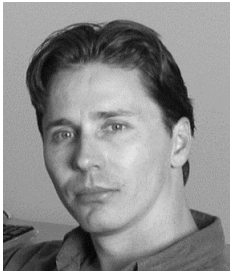


ROSS WILLIAMS

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An Australian born sound designer and composer, Ross Williams completed his Masters and Doctorate in Musical Arts at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Ross has composed and sound designed for theatre, museum exhibits, multimedia and award-winning independent feature and short films.

The Soundscape as Cultural Heritage

Music as cultural heritage is well established and has a long history of scholarship, as do the disciplines concerned with the spoken word and language. However, the study and recording of other sounds, more specifically the urban soundscape, has a much shorter history. Since the industrial revolution and the move away from the farm and into the city, the soundscape has been constantly and rapidly changing. Early recording technology had limited ability to capture these sounds, but now high quality recordings can be made easily and at little expense. The Internet allows easy access to thousands of recordings via interactive sound maps and databases. What is the role of soundscape recording as cultural history and what is the role of recreated or staged soundscapes? How do we assess, access, collate and archive the huge number of new recordings created every year?