

Grantee: Pacifica Foundation / Pacifica Radio Archives
NEA Grant #: 05-3400-7004
Attachment: "SafeSound Archives Standards"

TO: PRA Preservation & Access Project
FR: Adi Gevins
RE: George Blood / SafeSound Archive
DA: July 6, 2006

THESE ARE THE SPECIFICATIONS USED BY SAFESOUND ARCHIVES IN RESTORING THE PACIFICA RADIO ARCHIVES PRESERVATION & ACCESS PROJECT AUDIO TAPES.

SUMMARY COMMUNICATION FROM GEORGE BLOOD, July 6, 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

2 (two) CD-DA (compact disc digital audio) CD-R's are produced, one Mitsui Gold, the other Taiyo Yuden.

Digitization is at 44.1kHz/24bit, dithered to 16bits for CDs.

Discs are inkjet printed and stored in a standard jewel case descriptive and catalog information on tray-card.

LONG VERSION:

Analog reel-to-reel tapes are assessed for signs of deterioration (Vinegar Syndrome, Sticky Shed Syndromes, poor storage, splices, etc.), and treated as required. (Very little required for most of the PRA collection processed to date)

Tapes are played on a Studer A80 -- chosen for its very gentle tape path.

None of the PRA tapes processed to date have had noise reduction.

Studer A80 (Reel-to-Reel Tape Recorder / Playback machine) is attached directly to a Pacific MicroSonic model analog-to-digital converter and digitized at 44.1 kHz/24 bit. [44.1 was chosen because it is the resolution of the delivery format (CD-Audio), and 24-bit to allow some processing headroom if any work is necessary between digitization and final CD.

The digital file is opened in SonicSolutions digital audio workstation. The beginning and end are trimmed to length, any splices are repaired, multiple reels are re-assembled into a single CD, and any start/stops of the tape recorder are re-assembled. In the Sonic Studio, DAW start of track marks are placed as appropriate to the program material (evenly spaced 5-minutes for interviews, at introductions for musical selections, etc).

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CDs are burned using TDP dither to Mitsui Gold CD-Rs to produce the Preservation Master.

After burning CDs are spot-checked for continuity and obvious catastrophic flaws.

The Mitsui "Golds" are checked 100% for data errors using a CloverSystems CD-X tester.

These Preservation Master CDs are cloned to Taiyo Yuden CD-R's to produce the Access Copy.

All CDs are printed with a water-soluble ink jet printer.

Key information from the catalog data is printed to the CD-R and the tray card insert.

Where "enhancement" is performed (to improve the intelligibility of "distressed" recordings), 2 CD-R's are produced, one before processing (representing the original artifact) and one post-processed. These are housed in the same CD jewel box for easy reference.

Nominated for Grammy Award 2003: Best Classical Album
Philadelphia Orchestra, Schumann Orchestra works
Producers: George Blood & Simon Woods

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