



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

MITCHELL RENAUD

BMus (University of Toronto, 2012)

“Tracing Noise: Writing In-Between Sound”

Interdisciplinary Studies
Cultural, Social and Political Thought

Thursday, December 10, 2015
1:00PM
Clearihue Building
Room A207

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Emile Fromet de Rosnay, Department of French, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Christopher Butterfield, School of Music, UVic (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Stephen Ross, Department of English, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Arthur Kroker, Department of Political Science, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. James Tanaka, Department of Psychology, UVic

Abstract

Noise is noisy. Its multiple definitions cover one another in such a way as to generate what they seek to describe. My thesis tracks the ways in which noise can be understood historically and theoretically. I begin with the *Skandalkonzert* that took place in Vienna in 1913. I then extend this historical example into a theoretical reading of the noise of Derrida's *Of Grammatology*, arguing that sound and noise are the unheard of his text, and that Derrida's thought allows us to hear sound studies differently. Writing on sound must listen to the noise of the motion of *différance*, acknowledge the failings, fading, and flailings of sonic discourse, and so keep in play the aporias that constitute the field of sound itself.