

Of Ecomusicological Interest at AMS Pittsburgh

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Allen, Aaron S. "Of Ecomusicological Interest at AMS Pittsburgh," *Ecomusicology Newsletter* II, no. 2 (2013): 7.

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Abstract:

In addition to a variety of individual papers that hold or hint at ecomusicological interest, there are also five full sessions, one outing, and one business meeting at AMS Pittsburgh 2013.

Keywords: ecomusicology | conference sessions

Article:

*****Note: Full text of article below**

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by Aaron S. Allen

In addition to a variety of individual papers that hold or hint at ecomusicological interest, there are also five full sessions, one outing, and one business meeting at AMS Pittsburgh 2013.

The Thursday morning outing is actually connected to the Thursday evening session, but both could be enjoyed independently. The AMS Ecocriticism Study Group is sponsoring an outing to tour the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, a large Victorian greenhouse set amidst Schenley Park, one of Pittsburgh's largest greenspaces. All are welcome to attend; meet at the conference hotel just before 9am to take public transit to the conservatory, where we can have lunch at the eco- and health-conscious Café Phipps. We will return to the conference hotel in time for Thursday afternoon sessions. Participants should bring \$40 cash; no advance registration is necessary, but contact Helena Spencer, hkopchic@uoregon.edu, ESG Outings Coordinator, with questions or to just let her know you plan to attend.

The ESG evening session, "From Landscapes to Cityscapes: Shaping the Sonic Geography of Place," will offer some intellectual and sonic reflections on Pittsburgh, and other locales, that should connect nicely with the Thursday morning outing. Through the lense of sonic geography, the session will address the theme of energy to consider how music and communities envision themselves in relation to place through their music. The papers will consider soundscapes, popular music, country music, and sonic representations of Pittsburgh.

On Friday evening, the ESG Business Meeting will include an election for a new chair and planning for future events. After the meeting, many ESG folks will surely stick around for the Ecomusicology Listening Room. This second edition of the ELR will build on the engaging and well-attended session of the same name held in New Orleans (see www.ecosong.org); the 2012 ELR addressed ecomusicological questions in a general manner without a specific approach. This year, in order to

focus the ecomusicological conversation and intersect with other fields, the ELR will examine musical sound as environmental communication, emphasizing popular music, live performance, and visual musics.

Two sessions that promise some interesting discussions are on Saturday morning (unfortunately scheduled during the same time). "The Gendered Soundscape" is an alternative-format session that will include Andra McCartney (who is also on the Saturday afternoon "Nightingale" panel) and Deep Listening advocate Pauline Oliveros. "Music in the Age of Animantities" includes two papers that will engage with animal studies.

On Saturday afternoon, "The Nightingale" session will use the voice of the nightingale as the touchstone for a broader discussion about our ways of listening to nature and about the limitations of traditional discourse about human aesthetic identity. The panel will feature three human and one (virtual) avian participants.

Even if you are (or were) not able to attend Ecomusicologies 2013 in Brisbane, Australia (see pp. 4-5 in this issue), the events in Pittsburgh should still stimulate a lot of ecomusicological discussion!

EN

Ecomusicology Dance Card: AMS Pittsburgh 2013

Thursday, November 7

9am-12:45pm, ESG Outing to Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens
8-11pm, ESG Session, "From Landscapes to Cityscapes"

Friday, November 8

5:30-6:30pm, ESG Business Meeting
8-11pm, Ecomusicology Listening Room

Saturday, November 9

9am-12pm, The Gendered Soundscape
9am-10:30, Music in the Age of Animantities
2-5pm, The Nightingale