

## Audio Collage: "Behind the Sounds" Transcript

**Annie Cao:** "In terms of what I've learned, of course I've learned a lot more about podcasts, and like the different types there are, and like audio storytelling techniques. It's a lot of stuff I hadn't really thought of before. I can kind of approach audio media, or auditory media in a new way. Additionally, I learned a lot about, like, the content of the class was about the history of slavery at UVA and the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers. I didn't know any of that. Um, like the history or the MEL before I came into the class. So that is probably, like, some of the most important information I'm going to take away from UVA like as a fourth year, cause it feels very strange not having known any of this until just now when I'm about to leave."

**Erica Cummings:** "Um, first of all, the topic just in general is so important and the MEL is something new to UVA that I feel like a lot of students know about but don't know a ton about, so I thought that it was a really good topic for this course. And I learned so much about the history of slavery at UVA that I had no idea...between our readings and of course with the project, um, doing such a deep dive into it, getting to talk to so many people. So I thought that that was a really great concept and I'm glad that that's what this course centered around and that we got to make this project together."

**Abbi Grable:** "I was originally pretty nervous cause I had not had a lot of experience regarding enslaved laborers at UVA. I had not really learned anything about that, didn't really know anything about the memorial, just that it was there, so getting a bigger history on that was extremely important and I think opened my eyes to a lot of issues I didn't know. Overall, I think I learned a lot in this class. I now know how to make a podcast, so that's pretty cool. I had no idea how to do that before."

**Alejandro Waquin:** "Overall this was one of my favorite classes I have taken at UVA and the reason is because besides learning how to write, edit, format, edit, and utilize sound to create like a successful podcast, I learned a lot about the history of the university. While I knew about the enslaved laborer memorial and I had walked by it, before taking this class I did not know nearly as much about how this project was started, and all the effort that was put behind it."

**Byron Bleuze:** "Overall I really enjoyed this class. I thought it was very educational. I learned so much about the MEL, how it came to be, um you know especially the student organization and the student push for the MEL. I didn't really know that at all

before coming into this classroom. But then just through researching it, because that's what my podcast episode focuses on, I learned a lot about that aspect of it. And then listening to everyone else's podcasts and their topics. I learned so much and it was really fun to just listen to everyone's podcasts and to work on the podcast. I've never made a podcast before."

**Jesse Lynch:** "Through this class not only was I able to speak with people in Charlottesville that are currently making a difference, but I was able to see how influential students in my generation can be in pushing for change."

**Yixuan Chen:** "I realized that landscapes can act as vehicles to convey or even promote certain ideologies and influence people's interactions. I'm really honored and glad to be able to produce a podcast episode in this class, especially with a focus on the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers. This class not only provides me an opportunity to learn a new type of genre, writing scripts for podcasts, but also allows me to understand the history of slavery at UVA, as well as contribute myself to promoting equity and inclusion within the community as a student."

**August Lamb:** "I guess overall this has been a really in-depth project and it gives me an appreciation for the detail and thought put into a lot of podcasts. We've spent months, I guess, on one 15 minute episode and some shows do this every day, produce a fully involved product with sound design and great interviews, and it's a lot of work and really impressive."

**Ashley Thompson:** "The flexibility and collaborative nature of the class was probably what allowed me to enjoy the process of learning new techniques of writing. And since I'm a kinesiology major, the process of audio recording and editing was really unfamiliar and uncomfortable to me at first. But I was definitely able to learn so much more by going through the process with my teammates. And I really enjoyed being a part of this class and kind of learning the nuances of podcast editing. And I've definitely discovered how hard it is, especially for me, who is someone who is not especially comfortable with computers or audio software. But there's such a huge depth of experience and of choice that goes into podcasts and there's infinite ways to design it and I think that's so interesting and it makes me appreciate the podcasts that I listen to a lot more."

**Yumna Rahman:** This course taught me a lot about what being on a podcast production team might be like. I really enjoyed the research and interviewing portions of the project because digging up information and learning more about a story has

always been interesting to me. I learned more about UVA than I had known before entering this class. I never realized that making a podcast is as much about what not to include as it is about what to include. Beyond podcasting, though, I learned a lot of crucial life skills from this class as well, including interpersonal and professional communication skills. Two of the most important things were, firstly as expected, team work and team cohesion. That can be difficult especially since other people's vision for an episode won't always be the same as yours. Secondly, being able to take feedback and criticism is important because other people's appreciation of a script or certain parts of an episode may not match yours, and so listening to everyone's perspectives and adjusting accordingly is important."

**Byron Bleuze:** "I liked writing the script. I think I learned a lot about writing for the ear. Um, you know, and like through the school system and what not we learned to write essays and it's very formulaic in the way you structure your sentences and the way you write. But writing for the ear is completely different."

**Jesse Brouillette:** "I thought it was really amazing that I kind of came in not knowing anything about writing for the ear, or thinking it was similar to writing on paper and not thinking it would be much different to kind of now completely rethinking the way I kind of walk around and listen to things, or like if I'm writing a speech when I'm like performing a trial or something, like the way I word things to make them sound differently than how they would be if, you know, I was just to write them on paper, cause it is a fundamental difference. And it's just incredible how like we went in knowing nothing and now we have a podcast out of like 12 to 16 weeks that just looks really nice and sounds really nice."

**Heba Imam:** "I really enjoyed learning about, like, different audio techniques, and just like, seeing how different it is like I guess I never really thought about, you know, that we never learned to listen in school. I remember one of the readings pointing that out. And so some of those like interesting things that we learned about in this class were really different from what I've you know been taught for other kinds of writing classes, whether for creative writing or a normal English class."

**Jesse Lynch:** "I also enjoyed learning about not only the technical side of making a podcast, but also aspects of making a podcast that are not as tangible, including how to be a good interviewer and how to tell stories with empathy. It really resonated with me how often we have conversations that are essentially two people going back and forth but no one is really listening. The exercises and articles in this class emphasized how important it is to be a good listener letting go of previous notions and ideas of

what a person might say and being present in the conversation or interview. I think these lessons are so important for people to take away from because so much of our daily lives involve how we interact and listen to others. In learning these ideas, I feel like I can take this knowledge and apply it to so many areas of my life in the future.”

**Cabrel Happi:** “Very early on the discussions and the listening to the podcasts was something that I thought was really remarkable in my learning because I learned a lot about intentionality. And I say this because being quiet and being silent and really observing what’s going on around you and how different things bring up different emotions and different thoughts and memories, and how we can use sound to really invoke a feeling in someone else in a way that I never really understood. And so like that’s branched out to all different facets of my life. Be it truly listening to what someone near me has to say or listening to music. Um, when it comes to the podcast I really love how a piece of art or piece of music... I’ve always known how music can sway people and make them feel a certain type of way but I was really stunned hearing the final projects of everyone’s podcasts and how this is something that will last and it’s something that will invoke emotion and educate people here at UVA about the racial history. And how it’s such a powerful medium that sometimes gets overlooked, but if used in the right way and done in the right way and all the pieces put together from the auditory clips to the news clips to the sound devices and if all of those mesh well it can really create this almost beautiful auditory art piece that is truly remarkable and something that I am pleased that I had the chance to undertake this effort and the chance to work on such a project because I think it’s meaningful.”

**Jeffrey Richbart:** “So there was a lot of, um, growth there, just learning about what makes a good story and what makes something pleasing to the ear. And then when we got into the actual process of creating our own episodes, the feeling of the class completely changed. It becomes more about, OK less about this idea of a story and more about your story, uh, and the episode that you’re creating and how can you actually put that together.”

**Shakeel Panjwani:** “This class was my introduction into investigative journalism, podcasting...in general as well as in the realm of social justice. And yeah, learning about the MEL was really a valuable experience for me. Just to be able to be involved in a class that is so relevant and so...has such powerful content, um, that can really move people.”

**Jesse Brouillette:** “How do you make a story out of a story you’re not sure you have, and like how do you work with it on the fly? All in this brand new medium of audio. It

was an incredible, kind of, learning experience to meld it all together that I'm overall happy with the class and feel like I have a lot of things I can take away, moving on to just the future and what I incorporate into my everyday life and I'm glad I was able to take it. Overall I was very proud of it, of my work and my group members and what we all did."

**Tristan Guarnieri:** "I'm really happy in the end that it ended up being about the Memorial for Enslaved Laborers because I think it just changed the whole tone and work ethic around creating the podcast episode. For me at least it really felt like I wanted to do a good job when or try really hard when making the podcast because if I didn't it felt like I was disrespecting or dishonoring the enslaved laborers. I wanted to make a work that could be looked at in the future and be used to like understand the situation better, and also just to preserve this legacy of UVA that we can't really forget and that far few students know about as is. I feel like audio storytelling is, teaches you a lot about not just making podcasts, but just about writing and telling stories in general, which are skills I'm really glad I learned and just the whole research component of this project and putting all of this research in a form and these interviews and the whole experience. I think it was super insightful."