

Cage was at an orchestral concert with friends. There was a Mahler symphony in the programme. After the concert Cage was asked if he'd enjoyed the Mahler. "Not really", he replied. "But why not?" said the friend, "Didn't you find it moving?" "I don't mind being moved", replied Cage, "but I don't want to be pushed."

**Hearing from Scratch:
The Use of the Interview as a Research Tool for the Study of
British Experimental Music**
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For many experimental music organizations, published documentation is scarce, with the best resource for information being in the memories (and sometimes the basements) of those involved. In the case of the Scratch Orchestra, the limited available documentation (Paul Griffith's "Modern Music," Michael Nyman's "Experimental Music," Virginia Anderson's dissertation, and a small number of journal articles) hinted at a vast amount of documentation inaccessible except through direct contact with former members of the orchestra. This paper documents the use of the interview to gain essential documentation, focusing on my research on the Scratch Orchestra.

The difficulties in using this research tool are the focus of this paper, including questions of interview methodology, objectivity, evaluation of data, the compilation and cataloging of data and methods for presenting data obtained in an interview format. Using examples from more than thirty interviews with members of the British music community, as well as cross-disciplinary journalistic and literary sources, such as John Jacob Brady's "The Craft of Interviewing," I will describe and evaluate the effectiveness of the musicological interview methodologies created through a combination of musicological, ethnomusicological and journalistic research techniques. The role of objectivity in the interview process will also be addressed as well as the potential benefits and problems with data obtained by interview. During my Scratch Orchestra research I realized the need to hear "from scratch." This paper therefore documents not only the effect of interviews on the research, but also on the people who conduct them.

