Noah Howells

Soundscape Reflection

For my soundscape, I wanted to create an experience of someone walking through city streets on their way to a jazz club. I wanted to create this as a sort of switch from being out in hectic or busy city traffic and atmosphere to entering a place that is very peaceful with mellow jazz music playing where the listener could recognize the relaxation that it brings. Getting the audio to complete this assignment was nice, as it got me out of the house and going on a stroll in the city for a little when it died down a bit at night. I recorded all of the city noise myself as well as the door sound effect, and went to both youtube.com and freesound.org in order to get the jazz music and sound effects I used (chair being pulled out to sit down, and glasses clinking as if the table being set for drinks). The biggest challenge I faced was probably technical. I wasn’t familiar with Audacity as a software when we started this, and after importing so many different audio clips, it was a lot to manage. I had to figure out which clips worked in comparison to which came before and after so that the audio was not choppy or incoherent. Once I got the order down, I used fading, cutting, and overall volume adjustment to make the entire soundscape even more seamless. I’m most proud of the transition I created when the listener opens the door and the city noise stops and the jazz slowly fades in. I think I made this transition work pretty well and I love how it sounds. Throughout this process, I’ve learned about making different sounds and clips work in unison, even if they are completely different sounds, or even sounds of the same or similar things but recorded at different times or volumes. I think working with only sound really makes you think about how to set up your narrative and how exactly you want to portray your message because you can’t rely on any visual cues to give the listener information.