Audacity images:

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generatedImages are taken in order as I worked on the project, and everything came together

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

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Description automatically generated

Reflection/creator’s statement:

I recently returned from an almost three week long trip to Japan, and it is just about the only thing I have been able to think about since. There are a lot of things I miss about Japan and its uniqueness, most of those things are connected via sound as Japan uses audio in many ways to help out the public and also in various locations. These sounds have become nostalgic for me and act as a way to bring back memories, which is why I chose to use some of these Japan-specific sounds in my project. Most of the audio tracks I chose to include could probably be figured out by someone who didn’t visit Japan, but my hope is that the listener still gets the general feel of what it’s like to walk through Tokyo and do various things such as stop at Family Mart, take the train, and even visit Don Quijote.

This project was both simple and difficult for me, as I honestly had to condense my ideas and audios to fit the five minute limit, there was just so much I wanted to include and share from my experience that I had to leave out some fun sounds. I wanted the listener to experience some travel and casual errands, this was meant to be a relaxing narrative that would offer new sounds to people who have never been to Japan and nostalgic memories for those who have. Once I was able to nail down the length of my narrative, the real challenge was how I wanted to lay out my various audio tracks. This means that I had to overlap many different audios as the “narrator” is moving through different environments and doing different things. A tool of Audacity that helped me achieve this was the fade in/out tool, which really helped in creating smooth audio that was not choppy or anything as the “narrator” would move from location to location and sounds would naturally fade in or out. There was only one more thing I needed to make my vision come to life: jingling some change around. Cash is king in Japan and change is probably one of the most important things, so I wanted to include that small but important aspect as well. For this, I took to my own devices and created a simple audio of a coin purse with change in it, which the “narrator” uses at Family Mart and the train station.

Listening to this soundscape upon finishing brought back so many memories for me and I hope that those who listen to it can get a small taste of this place that I love and miss.