Singing wet and dry: Exploring alcohol regulation through music, 1885–1919
McDonnell, Lytton Naegele

URI: http://hdl.handle.net/1828/1302
Date: 2008-12-19

Abstract:
Despite abundant research on the topic of temperance and prohibition in North America, very little has been written about the relationship between music and alcohol regulation during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Both pro-drink (wet) cultures and anti-drink (dry) cultures amassed several hundred songs in support of their cause. This study compares these songs within the geographical context of Canada and northern North America during the years leading up to prohibition. It assesses both wet and dry songs’ relative success at attaching their causes to hegemonic ideologies, social groups, technologies, and modes of organization. It concludes that, during the period in question, dry music was more adept in each of these respects. This study contributes to current scholarship by demonstrating that wet and dry cultures in North America cannot be completely understood without also studying their music.

Show full item record

Files in this item

Name: Lytton Naegele ... Size: 1.910Mb Format: PDF Description: Full Thesis (written)

Name: Appendix - Track 1 ... Size: 1022.Kb Format: MPEG Audio Description: Appendix - Audio ...

Name: Appendix - Track 2 ... Size: 1.378Mb Format: MPEG Audio Description: Appendix - Audio ...

Name: Appendix - Track 3 ... Size: 1.192Mb Format: MPEG Audio Description: Appendix - Audio ...

Name: Appendix - Track 4 ... Size: 2.509Mb Format: MPEG Audio Description: Appendix - Audio ...

This item appears in the following Collection(s)

- Theses (History)
- ETD (Electronic Theses and Dissertations)
This collection contains theses and dissertations submitted in partial fulfillment of graduate degree programs at the University of Victoria.
The first attempts to ban alcohol consumption through government action appeared on the local and state levels during the 1830s. Local prohibition has flourished on and off ever since. During the early 1850s, twelve states and territories followed the example of Maine by enacting statewide prohibition laws. Prohibition (1919–33) Period in US history when the government prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transport of alcoholic drinks. The 18th Amendment to the US Constitution, confirmed by the Volstead Act (1919), brought in Prohibition. Smuggling, illicit manufacture, corruption of government officials and police, and the growth oforganized crime financed by bootlegging made it a failure.