



FACULTY OF ARTS

Adelaide Summer Research Scholarship 2020-2021

Remembering John Kennedy

Supervisor: Professor Jennifer Clark, Head of School

School of Humanities

John Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 while he was President of the United States. The public mourning for Kennedy was extensive within America and across the world. Streets, bridges, buildings and schools were renamed for him. In Australia, a bas-relief was erected in the Treasury Gardens in Melbourne. And, people from all over the world, including Australia, wrote heartfelt letters of condolence to his widow. They also composed music and sent that to Jacqueline Kennedy as well.

This project is about the music that was composed and submitted to Jacqueline Kennedy in 1963 and 1964. The student will work with Professor Jennifer Clark to construct an electronic data base from an archive collection of music located in Adelaide – songs, instrumental pieces and their accompanying letters – ready for analysis. The student will assist in the identification of categories for analysis and be responsible for building the data base. The student will learn ways of constructing data sets from archives, and the processes of formulating useful questions for analysis. The project would especially suit a student who is interested in digital humanities, who is comfortable working with Excel and can read music.

The student will learn about how to utilise cultural products in historical analysis, how to work with materials of public mourning, how to use finite archive collections and learn more about American History in the 1960s generally. The student will have the opportunity to exercise specific skill sets should they have them including data visualisation and music analysis.

The project crosses disciplines – cultural history, musicology, digital humanities, popular culture, cultural studies.

No previous knowledge of American History is required, but the ability to read music and an interest or background in digital humanities, including the use of Excel and data visualisation, is an advantage.

The student will gain the following research skills and experience;

- Publication in a high-quality journal
- Opportunity to co-author the publication with Project Supervisor
- Using finite archive sets
- Data set building
- Data analysis
- Data visualisation
- Work with materials of cultural history
- Be involved in all aspects of historical thinking around the building of the data set including the choice of categories, interpreting the archives and interpreting the resultant data sets.