

## MUSIC HISTORY 204 – Assignment 9

Due Tues, April 28

Read the attached excerpt from “Plunderphonics” by John Oswald. Listen to “Spring” and “Birth” by Oswald on the Supplementary CD.

Answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the source for “Spring”? What is the source for “Birth”?
- 2) At the beginning of the subhead “Starting from scratch” Oswald says that “listeners are . . . encroaching upon creative territory.” Explain what you think he means by this, and give an example of this encroachment from your own experience.
- 3) Read the final subhead, beginning “All popular music (and all folk music, by definition), essentially, if not legally, exists in a public domain.” Do you agree with Oswald’s argument? Does it apply to “art” music as well as to pop music? Pick a piece that you’re familiar with that “re-uses existing recorded materials” and compare it to a piece we’ve studied this semester that does not re-use materials. Are the creative processes comparable in the two cases? Is one process intrinsically more valuable than the other?