Broad outline

Each of the four sessions will examine a major period in recorded sound, sample some of its best recordings, and explore long-term influences and relevance today. Topics discussed will include:

* the birth of recording and the early acoustic era
* maturation, new music for new audiences, amplification, and the impact of electrical recording on music
* The development of jazz, blues, ethnic music, and other musical genres genres, on record
* 1940s & 1950s: strikes, new content on new formats, HiFi, roots of rock and roll
* the digital era: overturned business models, new technologies; DIY production

Each session will feature listening and discussion of five to ten key artists and producers active within the era discussed. Attendees will be provided with links to online recordings and a reading list for further, independent exploration.