LISTEN CLOSELY:
Rethinking How We Hear Greatness in Popular Music
March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 @ 12-1pm via Zoom

Moderator: Byrd McDaniel, Fox Center Postdoctoral Fellow

What makes music great? Many of us would answer this question differently. Some of us may feel that greatness in
music can be found in the combination of sounds in a song. Others may point to the stories behind the music. Some of
us may feel that a personal connection makes music powerful. For the rest of us, maybe the best music moves our
bodies. Our seminar will explore why people have such different answers to this question, by focusing on the act of
listening itself. We will consider the many ways we can listen to music. By dwelling on popular music in particular, we
will spend our five sessions exploring five themes: Community, Stillness, Dancing, Interactivity, and Spirituality. These themes
will help us pay attention to different dimensions of listening. We will think about listening as connected to race,
gender, sexuality, class, and disability. We will consider what makes listening different from other senses. And we will
become attentive to our listening habits, recognizing how things like systemic oppression, privilege, and bodily abilities
come into play. As a popular music scholar, I will guide us through our five hour-long sessions. Each of our online
gatherings will consist of a twenty-five-minute presentation followed by a guided community discussion, in which I
invite you to share and reflect on your own experiences as a listener.

This seminar will be moderated by ethnomusicologist Byrd McDaniel, Fox Center Postdoctoral Fellow, and will meet
via Zoom from 12pm-1pm on the following five Tuesdays during the 2021 spring semester: March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30.
Participation is limited, and reservations are required. The Zoom meeting link will be sent via email the day before each
session date. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar. For further
information and to reserve a spot on a “first-come basis,” email the Fox Center at foxcenter@emory.edu.

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or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.