

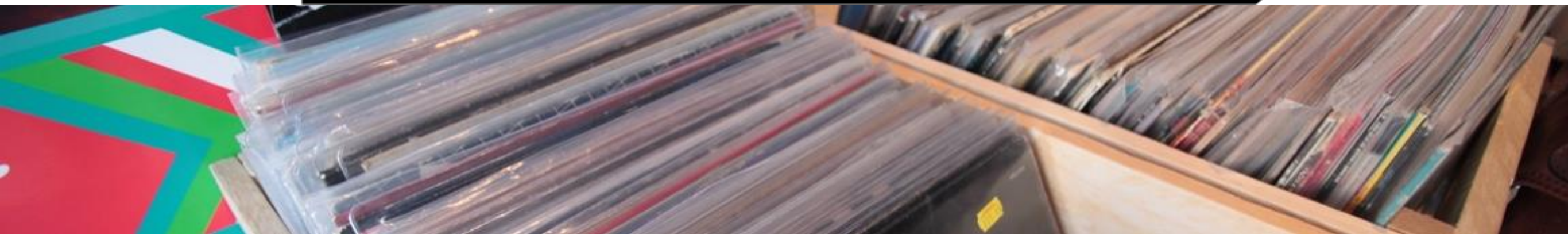


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Karlyn King



*“And her voice is a backwards record”:*  
The Gendering of Phonograph  
Technology





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## Cueing up

- The listening room
- Domestic war
- Bias
- Now







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Why?

“You would think that with women being more suited to the home life they would actually be more into record collecting than men”  
(fecklesscrounger, 2017, Discogs forum)





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## The Listening Room

“men have bulldozed the opposite sex into the belief that they cannot possibly understand the workings of this complicated equipment... As time went by, men were happy that audio interest had taken on the aspects of a secret fraternal organization from which women were barred” (Reif 1956, p. 11)

*What shall we do  
with the tin-eared ladies?*

**the infidelical spouse**



**HI-FI-MANSHIP**

Most people who buy records are not hi-fi fans. Nice people, too. But Vox considers that each record it produces will be heard by a true-blue hi-fi type of guy. You're our man...as these unusual high fidelity recordings clearly demonstrate.

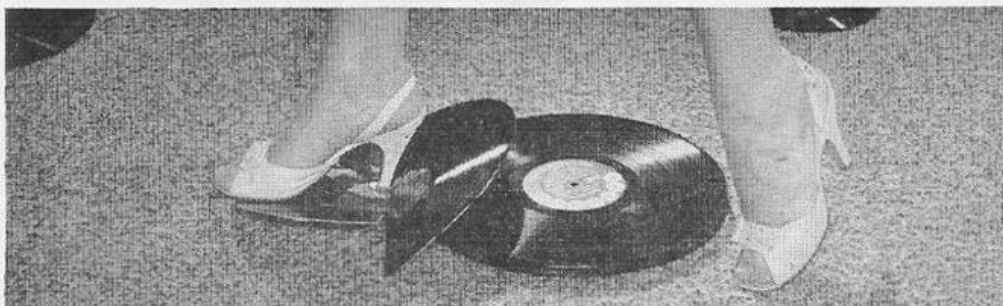




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### A worn needle ruins records *just as surely*



Not as quickly as a spiked heel, but just as surely. Any needle that's been played too long develops sharp edges that slowly slice away sound impressions. By the time you can hear the damage your valuable records are ruined. What can you do? Take your needle to your Fidelitone dealer and ask him to check it. If it's worn, ask him for the best — a Fidelitone Diamond. It gives you more hours of safe record playing time

than any other type of needle. FREE — Fidelitone will send you complete information on record and needle care. Send name and address to: Fidelitone, Record Care Booklet, Chicago 26, Illinois.

### Fidelitone

*"Best buy on records"*

#### WIN AN EXPENSE FREE TRIP TO THE BRUSSELS WORLD'S FAIR

You and a guest can fly there non-stop aboard a luxurious Lufthansa German Airlines Super Star Constellation, unsurpassed for comfort and service. Simply enter Fidelitone's "Name Your Favorite Tune" contest. George DeWitt, star of TV's

top musical quiz show, "Name That Tune" (CBS-TV Tuesday evenings), and popular Johnny Olsen may choose YOU! Get your contest entry blank today from any good record dealer where Fidelitone Phonograph Needles are sold.



## Domestic War

"Do women really listen to music . . . ? Is music a part of their experience because it is thought-provoking and soul-satisfying, or merely because it comes out of a 'blond' cabinet . . . and thus adorns the domestic premises?" (Buxbaum, 1949, p51)

"Rather than being a matter of sex, doesn't it depend on how well the listener knows and enjoys music as such?" (Heathcote, 1949, p. 58)



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“I have stacks of washing to do and there is a one in a million Promenade Concert on tonight - Grieg’s Piano Concerto in A minor, Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony & Overture to William Tell....At the moment, I am in the world of dreamland and music”

GC, 1955, The Great Diary Project  
(cited in Perchard, 2017)





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## The Listening Bias



<http://seanolive.blogspot.co.uk/2010/07/why-live-versus-recorded-listening.html>

—and the ear could not  
tell the difference

Christine Miller, the famous concert contralto, recently made a tour of the country singing with the New Edison Diamond Disc. Everywhere people were held spellbound by this daring test of tone re-creation. The ear could not distinguish the original from Edison's re-creation of it.



Advertisement from *The Fulton County Tribune*, (Wauseon, OH) February 11, 1916.



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internalised patriarchal capital  
(King, 2021, p.339)





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So is this medium of  
music gendered?







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Thank you!

[www.karlyinking.com](http://www.karlyinking.com)

The Songs Are Spells Podcast

Insta: @karlynLking

