

# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

LECTURE SERIES FB07

22.10.

Stephan Summers (Musicology)

**Musical Discourses Under  
Construction – New Music and  
Jazz in US-Occupied Radio,  
1945–1949**

During World War II, the radio served as leading medium both for the officials of the NS-regime as well as for the occupying forces and maintained this role after 1945. After the war ended, the American forces seized control over all media outlets as well as cultural and political activities in their zone of occupation in order to rebuild them along their policies of demilitarization, democratization and denazification. My dissertation tries to offer some insight into the ways in which the American controlled radio stations used music to try to implement these objectives, what emphasis was placed in musical programming and how these were received by German listeners. Moreover, it aims to circle in on different musical profiles of the four radio stations of the American zone of occupation, based on the premise that each sought to distinguish themselves from another while simultaneously being part of the same geopolitical framework.

Aside from presenting sources and methodological approaches of the dissertation, the paper argues that music in US-controlled post-war radio served as a realm of negotiating meaning and constructing public discourse, for which Jazz and New Music programs at Radio Stuttgart will serve as an example. By examining broadcast manuscripts, program overviews and radio program guides, I will explore how certain types of music were framed, what music aesthetic tenets were held at Radio Stuttgart, and whether any specific broadcasting strategies can be discerned.