

**Name of host(s)**

Michael Schumacher

**Call for Papers:** in coordination with

**Concert event:** *Living Room Music*

**City:** Brooklyn, NYC

**Date**

Wednesday, March 13, time TBA

***Coordinated Call for Papers:***

We are welcoming submissions of short [up to 20-minute] musicological papers on the concert topic described below. The papers will lead into a post-presentation conversation discussing the issues surrounding home listening and the distribution of contemporary electro-acoustic music in general.

**CONCEPT and SPACE:**

The presentation will take place in the audio room at NYU's MARL space at 370 Jay St. It will take the form of an installation repeated over the course of about 3-4 hours, depending on the number and length of accepted submissions.

The Call seeks works that re-imagine the living space as a place for listening with its own, unique characteristics. Submissions should take into account the activities people engage in at home, the kind of sound systems used (real or imagined), interactivity, ambient sound and other factors. The structure of the submitted work should engage these realities, working with but also challenging them.

***Background:***

In the 1960s and 70s, the boom in "Hifi" meant every middle-class home had a good stereo system, usually located in the living room. LPs engaged the hifi consumer as a token of the concert experience, a take-home substitute for being there. Its duration, about 20 minutes a side, worked well, not too long or short. The listening chair was a feature, positioned in an ideal spot between two well-placed loudspeakers.

The transposition of concert music to this format was relatively easy as recording quality improved and studio techniques developed. Popular music also responded to the ubiquity of home stereos (and FM radio), with a move towards more complex structures and "concept albums". Then the CD happened, then MP3s, and "everything changed". Music listening became a background to life, an always-on phenomenon that tinged the day's emotional ride. Hifi all but disappeared, replaced by iPods, earbuds and Bluetooth speakers.