

Listening as a way of understanding music

REC. CONNECTIONS

ABOUT THE LISTENING LECTURES

**You know the hits.
You know the artists.
You know the genres.**

**But do you know the
connections behind
them?**

The forgotten pioneers, influential producers, record labels, cultural movements, musical innovations and cross-pollinations that shaped the music we know today?

DJ, musician, collector, music curator and **sonic storyteller Leroy Rey** takes audiences on an in-depth journey through the history and interconnectedness of modern music.

From electronic music, soul, funk, jazz, boogie and disco to house and hip hop, Leroy explores how musical ideas travel between artists, genres, generations and cultures.

Through carefully selected recordings, listening sessions, stories, archival material and surprising connections, audiences discover not only what they are hearing, but where it comes from, why it sounds the way it does, and how it has influenced generations of musicians, producers and artists.

Rather than approaching music history as a timeline, these listening experiences begin with the music itself.

Listening becomes a way of understanding.

By listening closely, audiences gain a vivid understanding of how genres, artists and cultural movements continuously shape and influence one another.

WHY IT MATTERS

Music is more accessible than ever. But accessibility does not necessarily mean understanding.

Behind every sound is a story. A musical influence. A technological development. A cultural movement. A scene. A record label. An artist responding to another artist, sometimes decades earlier.

Understanding these connections can change the way we listen.

These listening lectures and sessions help participants to:

- Recognise musical influences and origins
- Deepen their listening skills
- Discover connections between genres and musical movements
- Connect historical context to contemporary music
- Gain a deeper understanding of music's cultural significance
- Further develop their own musical and artistic identity

The aim is not simply to know more about music, but to hear more in the music we already love.

POSSIBLE LISTENING LECTURES

The subjects below are a selection of possible topics. Lectures can also be tailored around specific artists, genres, eras, cultural movements, record labels or musical innovations.

01

REC. CONNECTIONS

Weaving sonic threads

From jazz to house, hip hop and everything in between, Leroy Rey explores the musical relationships that exist across genres and generations. Tracing influences, shared rhythms, samples, ideas and cultural movements, he moves between seemingly different musical worlds to uncover where they meet, overlap and influence one another.

A lecture about listening beyond boundaries and about the musical histories that become visible when you really tune in.

02

THE HISTORY OF HOUSE & DANCE MUSIC

From disco dancefloors to warehouse culture.

Explore the origins and evolution of dance music, following the musical, cultural and technological developments that shaped the sounds and scenes we know today.

03

THE HISTORY OF DJ-ING & CLUB CULTURE

Behind every musical revolution stood a dancefloor.

Trace the development of DJ culture and club culture, from disco and early house to the global influence of electronic music.

04

THE ORIGINS OF PROTEST MUSIC

Music has long been used to challenge injustice, unite communities and inspire change.

Explore how protest music has developed across generations and how music has become a powerful voice for social change, resistance and justice.

05

THE ART OF SAMPLING

From James Brown to J Dilla. From disco to Daft Punk.

Explore how musical ideas are passed on, transformed, reinvented and brought back to life across genres and generations.

Sampling becomes a way of tracing musical history itself.

06

BLACK MUSIC AS THE FOUNDATION OF MODERN MUSIC

An exploration of the cultural roots, innovations and musical traditions that continue to shape contemporary popular music.

Looking beyond individual genres, this lecture explores the profound influence of Black artists, musicians, producers and cultural movements on the sound of modern music.



PHOTOGRAPHY / TIJMEN DE NOOIJ

ARTIST DEEP DIVE

An in-depth exploration of the life, work, influence and creative universe of iconic artists.

Through music, stories, collaborations and hidden connections, audiences discover how these artists shaped their contemporaries, influenced generations and changed the course of modern music.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

01	JAMES BROWN	The Godfather of Soul
02	PRINCE	Artist, Innovator, Visionary
03	QUINCY JONES	The Architect Behind the Sound
04	EARTH, WIND & FIRE	Spirituality, Groove & Musical Excellence
05	DE LA SOUL	The Art of Being Different
06	STEVIE WONDER	Genius Beyond Genres
07	MARVIN GAYE	Music & Soul Searching
08	THE ISLEY BROTHERS	Transcending Musical Eras
09	J DILLA	The Producer's Producer
10	HERBIE HANCOCK	Jazz Adventurist
11	GRACE JONES	Music, Fashion & Cultural Impact
12	A TRIBE CALLED QUEST	Redefining Hip Hop
13	ERYKAH BADU	The Torchbearer of a New Era in Soul

FORMATS

The listening experiences can be presented in different formats, depending on the audience, setting and subject.

01

LECTURES / MASTERCLASSES

The most in-depth and content-focused format.

Each lecture is built around a clearly defined subject, which could focus on:

- a specific artist or producer
- a record label and its significance
- a genre, scene or musical movement
- a particular period of musical development
- the relationship between music, culture and social developments

The story can be supported by photographs, film footage and audio excerpts, making it possible not only to explain what happened, but to show and hear how particular music and developments came about.

02

LISTENING SESSIONS

A more accessible and music-led format in which the music takes centre stage.

Leroy plays a carefully selected journey of records and tracks and, along the way, shares stories, insights and relevant context about the music, artists, productions and cultural background.

The emphasis is on the shared listening experience, with the story unfolding around the music being played.

03

SERIES / COURSES

A series of Lectures or Listening Sessions exploring one or more specific themes, genres, artists, eras or cultural movements.

A series can be developed as a connected journey, allowing audiences to explore a subject in greater depth over multiple sessions.

04

GUEST SPEAKER & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Leroy is available as a guest speaker, interviewer, moderator or panelist for festivals, conferences, radio programmes, television productions and cultural events.

Drawing on decades of experience in music, DJ culture, sampling, club culture and the evolution of modern music, he brings stories, context and unexpected connections to the conversation.

SONIC STORYTELLING

Since 1992, Leroy Rey has been active as a DJ, musician and musical curator.

As a DJ, musician, collector, radio host, cultural programmer and **sonic storyteller**, he has developed a deep understanding of the history, development and interconnectedness of modern music.

His musical knowledge is rooted in decades of research, record collecting and listening, combined with an exceptional ability to connect artists, genres and cultural movements.

Rather than simply presenting information about music, Leroy uses the music itself to tell the story.

He takes audiences beyond the familiar and invites them to hear the connections, influences and histories hidden within the records.

EXPERIENCE

With more than thirty years of experience as a **DJ, musician, music curator and sonic storyteller**, Leroy Rey has performed, created, programmed and shared his knowledge at festivals, clubs, cultural events, radio programmes and institutions in the Netherlands and internationally.

Selected experience includes, but is by no means limited to:

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Lowlands

Down The Rabbit Hole

North Sea Jazz

Wildeburg

Summer Dance Forever

Amsterdam Dance Event (ADE)

Nederlandse Dansdagen

Wicked Jazz Fest

VENUES & CULTURAL PLATFORMS

Paradiso, Amsterdam

Melkweg, Amsterdam

TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht

NAR, Utrecht

EKKO, Utrecht

DOKA, Amsterdam

Soho House, Amsterdam

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Miami Winter Music Conference, Miami

Night Tales, London

Djoon, Paris

BBE Store, London

EELSE, Berlin

REC Club, Napoli

MUSIC, RADIO & CULTURAL WORK

Alongside his DJ career, Leroy has worked as a musician, producer, radio host and cultural programmer. He has been involved in projects including The Proov, Wicked Jazz Sounds and Wicked Jazz Sounds Band, and continues to share his knowledge through talks, listening sessions, radio and cultural programming. He also hosts the bi-weekly Rec/Play radio show on World of Jazz, exploring hidden musical gems, influential artists and the stories and connections behind modern music.

leroyrey.com
<https://leroyrey.com>

Rec/Play
[Listen to REC/PLAY](#)

LANGUAGES

Available in Dutch and English.

BOOKINGS & INFORMATION

Listening Lectures, Listening Sessions, Masterclasses, Series and Guest Speaker appearances can be tailored to the audience, context and setting.

For more information, availability or a tailored proposal:

lectures@leroyrey.com