For the past year, Indiana University musicologist Phil Ford has been writing a series of blog posts on the Cold War, Millennial fear, daimons, and magic. In so doing, he has asked whether humanist scholars in a rationalist age might find value in something so seemingly discreditable as the occult. This series of writings joins a larger current of “weird thinking” that includes scholars and intellectuals such as Eugene Thacker, JF Martel, Joshua Ramey, Jeffrey Kripal, and others. Ford's choice of online medium is an attempt to find a form and expression appropriate to the content; to feel the boundaries of what is still, for scholars, a new medium; and to ask whether and how such online writing projects can be valued in the contemporary academy.

Phil Ford, Associate Professor of Music (Musicology), Jacobs School of Music, is the author of *Dig: Sound and Music in Hip Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2013), a cultural and intellectual history of hipness in American life from the 1940s through the 1960s. His essays have appeared in *Representations, Journal of Musicology, Jazz Perspectives, Musical Quarterly*, and other scholarly journals. He is also the co-author (with Jonathan Bellman) of the musicology blog *Dial ‘M’ for Musicology*, which he founded in 2006 and maintains to this day.

**Wednesday, October 21, 3:30pm**  
**Slocum Room, Lilly Library**

Attendance is by invitation only. Blog excerpts relevant to the discussion will be circulated to attendees prior to the event. Please indicate your intention to attend so that we may send you these texts.