

Gould Center Podcasting Workshop – Fall 2023

The Gould Center is excited to announce a new opportunity for Fall 2023: our Podcast Workshop. Students accepted to this program will have the opportunity to work with two podcasting experts, [Chris Hoff and Sam Harnett](#), in a series of five workshops on the essentials of podcast and audio production. Each workshop will introduce students to different aspects of podcasting and will teach them the skills necessary to put together a professional podcast episode or radio piece. No prior podcasting experience is necessary. Students accepted to the program are expected to attend all five workshops.

This series is open to all CMC students who will be on campus in Fall 2023. Spots are limited; preference is given to humanities majors. We have reserved a number of spots in this Podcast Workshop series for the Class of 2027. Applications are now open [here](#). More details about the workshop series and the facilitators are below.

The workshop series will be held on Wednesdays from 6 – 8 p.m. The workshops will be a mix of in-person and virtual events. Dinner will be provided for the in-person workshops. There will also be two performances by the Workshop Facilitators that students will be expected to attend; the first of which will be Thursday, September 9 at 6 p.m.

The workshop schedule is as follows:

- September 13, 6 – 8 p.m. *Field Recording*. Students will be introduced to basic recording techniques and equipment, how to mic an ambient sound versus a person speaking, and the simple tricks to getting good audio for production. (In-Person)
- September 20, 6 – 8 p.m. *Interviewing*. There is a large difference between interviewing a subject as a reporter who is looking for material to put into a story, as opposed to a host who is trying to engage in a dialogue where both sides of the conversation will make it into the final piece. Students will learn the different tactics and techniques between these two essential modes of interviewing. (Virtual)
- October 4, 6 – 8 p.m. *Writing for Radio*. We will examine the text scripts of actual NPR news spots, public radio feature stories from member stations, and podcast episodes. Students will learn how the scripts are formatted, but more importantly, what makes effective writing for audio pieces. (Virtual)
- October 25, 6 – 8 p.m. *Voicing*. Reading a script out-loud is a difficult skill, and in this workshop we'll learn techniques and strategies for sounding natural and confident when entering the sound booth to record a story. (Virtual)

- November 8, 6 – 8 p.m. *Mixing and Sound Design*. We will go over the basics of sound editing in a DAW (digital audio workstation): how to edit voice properly, and how to add other sounds to an audio piece, such as music, sound effects, and ambient sound. (In-Person)

The performance schedule is as follows:

- September 14, 6 – 8 p.m. *The World According to Sound*. You will sit in the dark, surrounded by speakers and be immersed in sound. You will hear bridges and ants and the gurgle of mud pots. You will be transported inside another person's head, and back in time a hundred years to the streets of Berlin. There will be a musical performance by a washing machine, sonorous sporting events, and the howl Marco Polo heard while crossing the Gobi Desert. (In-Person)
- November 9, 6 – 8 p.m. *Birds*. Birds. Quiet birds. Loud birds. Birds that don't sound like birds. Birds we'll never hear again in the wild. Birds heard by Tiresias, Greek bird-interpreter par excellence. Birds that mimic people. People that mimic birds. Birds that inspire music. Music that inspires birds. From the falcon-headed deity Horus to phoenixes rising from the ashes—humans are bound to the bird. (In-Person)

Workshop Facilitators: Chris Hoff and Sam Harnett, co-creators of [The World According to Sound \(WATS\)](#), an audio show and podcast series. WATS has received numerous accolades. As the *Washington Post* writes, “each episode contains a neat little story about an evocative, unusual sound rendered in intense aural detail.” During the pandemic, Hoff and Harnett also produced an online listening series, [Outside In](#).

Chris Hoff is a freelance audio producer and sound engineer. He has spent more than 10 years working in local journalism in San Francisco (KALW and KQED public radio). He has collaborated on numerous award-winning documentaries, long-form audio pieces, and live radio shows which have aired on NPR, the BBC, and public radio stations throughout the country; and which have been distributed as podcasts via Pineapple Street Studios, OZY, and Luminary Media.

Sam Harnett is a former Silicon Valley reporter at KQED where he covered how tech companies are changing culture and society. His journalism work includes breaking news coverage, guest appearances on radio and TV programs, and over 250 feature stories filed for local, national, and international outlets including NPR, APM, the CBC and BBC.