

**Attending and Valuing: "A Matter of Our Utter Freedom"**  
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A commonplace in reflections on what has become known as the “attention economy” is that theories of attention are inadequate when they do not engage questions of value. This paper explores the intimate relation between musical attending and valuing in the context of one specific instance, namely the early development of classical phenomenology around Edmund Husserl. In a key passage, Husserl himself described the project of phenomenology as entailing a radical “revaluing,” which is “a matter of our utter freedom.” Yet how might the claim for “freedom” to value and revalue play out in practices of musical listening? Some suggestions are explored in a comparative reading of two early twentieth-century thinkers intellectually proximate to Husserl: the little-known music theorist and political economist Arthur Wolfgang Cohn, and the value theorist and cultural critic Alain Locke (best known as the so-called “Dean” of the Harlem Renaissance).