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These days we take for granted the wide variety of music available on the radio.

一直以来我们理所当然地认为在广播里可得到广泛的，多种多样的音乐。

But, this wasn't always the case.

但是，这并非总是如此。

In the early days of radio, stations were capable of broadcasting only a narrow range of sounds, which was all right for the human voice but music didn't sound very good.

在无线电广播的早期，电台只能够广播狭窄范围的声音，这对人类声音来说还行，但是音乐听起来不是很好。

There was also a great deal of crackling and other static noises that further interfered with the quality of the sound.

还有许多噼里啪啦声和其他静电噪声进一步干扰了声音的质量。

A man named Edwin Armstrong, who was a music lover, set out to change this.

一个名叫Edwin Armstrong，这人是个音乐爱好者，打算改变这事。

He invented FM radio, a technology that allowed stations to send a broad range of frequencies that greatly improved the quality of the music.

他发明了调频广播，一种允许电台发送宽广范围频率的技术，极大地提升了音乐的质量。

Now, you'd think that this would have made him a millionaire; it didn't.

那么，你可能会认为这会使他成为百万富翁，它（调频广播技术）没有。

Radio stations at that time had invested enormous amounts of money in the old technology.

那时的广播电台已经在旧的科技上投资了庞大的金额。

So the last thing they wanted was to invest millions more in the new technology.

所以他们最不想做的事就是去在新科技上多投资数百万。

Nor did they want to have to compete with other radio stations that had a superior sound and could put them out of business.

他们也不想同其他有优质声音的，能让他们破产的广播电台竞争。

So they pressured the Federal Communications Commission, the department of the United States government that regulates radio stations, to put restrictive regulations on FM radio.

所以他们施压给联邦通信委员会，美国政府管理广播电台的部门，在调频广播上施加限制性的规则。

The result was that its use was limited to a very small area around New England.

结果是它的使用被限制在New England周围很小的区域。

Of course as we all know, Edwin Armstrong's FM technology eventually prevailed and was adopted by thousands of stations around the world.

当然，正如我们所知，Edwin Armstrong的调频技术最终获胜了，并且被全世界成千上万的电台采用了。

But this took years of court battles and he never saw how it came to affect the lives of almost everyone.

但这打了多年的官司，而且他从来都没见到它（调频技术）如何来影响几乎每一个人的生活。