

The Musical Brain

NBB 300 / MUS 309
Wed, 2:00-5:00, WH101

Prof. Paul R. Lennard
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Office Hours: by appointment

Help Session: Fri 1-2 pm
1462 Clifton Road, Rm 231

Syllabus

Content: This course examines the subjective experience and neural substrates of music perception and performance. Each week the class participates in a dialog between musicians and neuroscientists that examines both the experiential and mechanistic approach to music by asking questions such as "What makes something musical and how are the complex sounds of music processed by the brain?" The relationships of music to language, emotion and memory will be examined in detail. Theories of motor learning will be discussed and applied to musical performance. The course explores the development of the musical mind from infancy to adulthood and asks the question, "How are the brains of composers, conductors, and performers different?" Evidence of the efficacy of music therapy and the impact of music on mental health are evaluated. Finally the evolution of musicality in animals and humans is examined.

Jan 13 **What is music? / Pitch**

GUESTS: William Ransom and the Vega Quartet

Jan 20 **Rhythm**

GUEST: Richard Prior

Jan 27 **Melody / Harmony**

GUESTS: Richard Kogan

Feb 03 **Structure & Form / Musical Imagery**

GUEST: Juan Ramirez-Hernandez and the Riverside Chamber Players

Feb 10 **Musical Memory**

GUEST: Vega Quartet

Feb 17 **Music & Emotion / Musical Choices**

GUEST: Lois Reitzes and Gregory Berns

Feb 24 **Voice as an Instrument**

GUEST: Teresa Hopkin

*** evening Feb 25, Class Trip to the Dress Rehearsal of the Atlanta Opera production of Aida ***

March 03 **Prodigies & Savants / One Hour Exam**
GUEST: Ayke Agus

March 10 **Spring Break**

March 17 **Brains of Musicians & Non-Musicians**
GUEST: Yoel Levi

March 24 **Motor Memory & Performance**
GUEST: Cecylia Arzewski

March 31 **Health & Music**
GUESTS: William Ransom and Cori Snyder (Music Therapist)

April 07 **Musical Improvisation**
GUEST: Gary Motley

April 14 **Development & Music / Music & Language**
GUEST: Tamara Albrecht

April 21 **Is Music Uniquely Human? / Music & Language**
GUEST: Steven Everett

Final Exam: Wednesday May 5