Behavioral studies of rhythm and music perception

**Principal Investigator:**

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Introduction

You are being invited to participate in a research study about human perception of music and rhythm. The purpose of this study is to investigate how humans perceive rhythm and music, and how rhythm and music might change our experience of or memory for other sights and sounds.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information required for you to make an informed decision regarding participation in this research. It is important for you to understand why the study is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take the time to read this carefully, and feel free to ask questions if anything is unclear or if there are words or phrases you do not understand.

Research Procedures

The experiments conducted as part of this study will test how humans hear, see, remember, and move when they listen to auditory rhythms (including music) or see visual rhythms. If you agree to participate, you will be asked to listen to or watch rhythmic stimuli. You may be asked to make simple responses about whether you detect the presence of or differences between stimuli, to tap, bounce, or walk in time with the stimuli, and/or to make ratings about your impressions of the stimuli. You might also be asked to perform a task testing your memory or attention while you are listening to music. Finally, your brain activity might be recorded using a technique called electroencephalography (EEG), where electrodes placed on the scalp measure electrical signals that brain cells use to communicate. It is anticipated that the entire task will take no more than 3 hours. The task(s) will be conducted in the Brain and Mind Institute in the Natural Sciences building, the Social Sciences Building, or the Robarts Research Institute on the University of Western Ontario campus. There will be a total of 750 participants.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Individuals who are at least 17 years of age having hearing and vision adequate to perform the task are eligible to participate in this study. Individuals who are younger than 17 years of age or who have hearing damage or vision problems too severe to complete the task will be excluded from the study.

Risks and Benefits

There are no known or anticipated risks or discomforts associated with participating in this study. Although you may not directly benefit from participating in this study, the information gathered may provide benefits to society as a whole which include enhancing our scientific understanding of music perception and leading to advancements in medical care (for example, music or motor therapy) for disorders like Parkinson’s disease.

Compensation

You will receive course credit (1 credit per hour) or monetary compensation ($5 per half-hour) for your participation in this study. If you do not complete the entire study you will still be compensated a pro-rated amount.

Voluntary Participation

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may refuse to participate, refuse to answer any questions or withdraw from the study at any time with no effect on your future academic status.

Confidentiality

Any information obtained from this study will be kept confidential and will be accessible only to the investigators of this study. In the event of publication, any data resulting from your participation will be identified only by case number, without any reference to your name or personal information. The data will be stored on a secure computer in a locked room. Both the computer and the room will be accessible only to the investigators. After completion of the experiment, data will be archived on storage disks and stored in a locked room. Any documents identifying you by name will be kept separately from your data, and will be destroyed after 5 years.

Representatives of the University of Western Ontario Health Sciences Research Ethics Board may require access to your study-related records or may follow up with you to monitor the conduct of the study.

Open Data:

All identifiable information will be deleted from the dataset collected so that individual participant's anonymity will be protected. The de-identified data will be accessible by the study investigators as well as the broader scientific community. More specifically, the data may be posted on a database OR made available to other researchers upon publication so that data may be inspected and analyzed by other researchers. The shared data will not contain any information that can identify you.

Contacts for Further Information

If you would like to receive a copy of the overall results of the study, or if you have any questions about the study please feel free to contact the Principal Investigator at the contact information provided above.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or the conduct of the study you may contact:

The Office of Research Ethics

The University of Western Ontario

519-661-3036

E-mail: ethics@uwo.ca

*This letter is yours to keep for future reference.*

**Consent Form**

**Project Title:** Behavioral studies of rhythm and music perception

**Study Investigator’s Name:** Dr. Jessica Grahn

I have read the Letter of Information, have had the nature of the study explained to me and I agree to participate. All questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

Participant’s Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participant’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Person Obtaining Informed Consent (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_