



## **Participant Information Sheet**

### **Study title**

Music, Mood, and Motion: A Survey on Emotion in Film Music

### **Version number and date**

Version 1.0 16/11/2023

### **Researcher's name**

Ruby Crocker supervised by Dr. George Fazekas

### **Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee reference number:**

[Insert reference number allocated to your study by the Research Ethics Facilitators]

### **Invitation paragraph**

You are being invited to participate in a research study. Before you make the decision to take part in the study or not, please take a moment to go through the details of the study so you know what to expect, what information is being collected and why this research is being done. Please take time to read the following information and feel free to discuss it with others if you want to. If anything is unclear or you'd like more information, do not hesitate to send any questions or queries to: [r.o.n.crocker@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:r.o.n.crocker@qmul.ac.uk).

### **What is the purpose of the study and what would taking part involve?**

The purpose of this study is to understand how music in films makes us feel. This study aims to observe perceived emotion in film music. By sharing your thoughts, you'll help us learn more about how emotions are created in film music. The information from this survey will be used to annotate and verify emotions in a collection of film music from the past 20 years. The annotations and perceptions provided by participants will allow us to understand how composers manipulate emotion in film music, what techniques they use and what causes different emotions over time in a film excerpt.

The survey consists of a series of questionnaires and interactive labelling of audio excerpts. You will first be asked questions based on demographics; age, current

occupation, gender and nationality. Then there will be a questionnaire about your music experience, music skills and emotion in music. This part of the study also includes some questions about your music listening to find your 'music personality'.

At the end of the study your 'music personality' will be shown based on your responses. It will tell you about your music listening profile and listening style. This part of the study is a 'gamified' element, it is meant for amusement and is not to be interpreted too seriously, it was created for enjoyment rather than strict scientific analysis.

The second part of the survey will require you to listen to and label excerpts of music from films. It consists of 10 music excerpts from film soundtracks from the last 20 years. There will be interactive graphs and pointers for you to annotate your mood and emotion while listening to the short film excerpts. There is also an opportunity for participants to add a sentence on the excerpt they hear to provide further information on their emotion perception.

The survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. The study will be conducted online, and each participant will only have to participate once. Your answers to the study and interaction with the graphs will be submitted for analysis. All the data is submitted at the end of the study.

### **Why am I being invited?**

You are being invited to participate in this research study because you are over the age of 18 and have normal or corrected vision and hearing.

You should not take part in this study if you are under the age of 18 and if you are not able to perceive objects on a computer screen or listen to sound with headphones or through loudspeakers.

You should not take part in this study if you have significant visual or auditory impairments that would prevent them from perceiving objects on a computer screen or listening to sounds. If you have extreme mental health situations that could affect emotion and mood perception or negatively impact you, it is advised to not take part in this study. This study includes listening to sound excerpts from films. If any of the music triggers significant negative emotional response you are free to remove yourself from the study to prevent mental harm. If, in whatever way you are incapable of making observations regarding your emotional response to a piece of music you should consider not taking part in this study.

### **Do I have to take part?**

This participant information sheet has been written to help you decide if you would like to take part. The decision to take part is entirely yours. Should you choose to

participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without the need for explanation, and there will be no penalties or adverse effects.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Taking part in the study will support this PhD research that aims to further our understanding of connection between human emotion and film music, it will help aid our understanding of how composers manipulate emotion in film music, which can then help enhance filmmaking and storytelling with the aid of music and understanding audiences' emotional connections to film and music. It can also help with educational purposes, it provides valuable insights into the creative process and artistic choices made by composers, especially with something more personal and subjective. The study of emotional manipulation in music contributes to our understanding of human psychology. It explores how music can influence emotions and contribute to the emotional landscape of a cinematic experience. It can help learn about neurological processing; neuroscientific studies have shown that listening to music activates various brain regions associated with emotion, memory, and reward. The intricate neural processing of music contributes to its emotional impact.

There is a lot of research in music psychology, the study of music, psychology, and emotion continues to interest researchers, psychologists and music enthusiasts. Studying film music is important because it gives us a close look at how music affects us. Films can emulate real-life situations, people, and memories, or interpretations or perspectives of those things, making them a strong source of emotions.

With the gamified element of the research, participants can also find out about their listening habits even if it is for entertainment purposes only. Hopefully, this research will inspire people to think of music and emotion more and how important and personal it can be.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

This study is primarily about sound, sound could be louder than expected or startling and could shock the listener or in a rare scenario cause harm to your hearing. It is important to check volume levels before continuing to the listening part of the study.

This study also focuses on emotion, for those who have physiological conditions or feel emotions stronger than average there could be a risk of making people feel low. Depending on the music and lyrics, unwanted memories could be created, we advise those who don't feel they could participate mentally not to force themselves to do so. The study could cause emotional or physiological distress for people listening to excerpts if they are more emotionally unstable, triggering memories or emotions through music could affect some people more than others, although rare it is worth

noting depending on how people react to emotion in music, the excerpts are no longer than 1 minute and shouldn't create a big risk.

The study covers a range of film and music genres alike, some participants might recognize the music from films or from the artists which might cause memories of the characters or narrative or memories in their own lives, it is important to be wary of these risks for the participants before continuing with the study.

### **Expenses and payments**

This study is unpaid.

### **What information about me will you be collecting?**

Data about your age, gender and occupation, your experience, skills and listening habits with music. As well as the position of your markers in a waveform representation, which will be time stamped. And emotion annotations, by dot coordinates on an interactive graph that represents arousal valence values. A sentence to describe the emotion in the music excerpts will also be collected. A copy of all your answers and annotations will be collected and saved anonymously.

### **How will my data be stored and who will have access to it?**

Your data will be stored in fully anonymised format in London, UK, and only the PhD researcher Ruby Crocker will be able to access it. Your data information will be treated as strictly confidential and handled in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection

Act 2018 and comply with the data processing and storage policies of Queen Mary University of London Data Protection Policy Information/Data Governance Policy – DG14 – Storage of information (Approved 2023)

### **When and how will my data be destroyed?**

Your data will be saved electronically for 5 years after collection and erased through hard drive formatting.

### **How will my data be used and shared?**

The results of this study will be part of the PhD thesis that is connected to this research project. Results will be mentioned in a future conference or journal paper publication. All data is stored locally in an anonymised form and will not be accessible for or shared with others. Research Data Access and Management Policy

### **Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?**

Queen Mary University of London processes personal data for research purposes in accordance with the lawful basis of 'public task'.

Please read Queen Mary's privacy notice for research participants containing important information about your personal data and your rights in this respect. If you have any questions relating to data protection, please contact Queen Mary's Data Protection Officer, Queens' Building, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS or [data-protection@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@qmul.ac.uk) or 020 7882 7596.

### **What will happen if I want to withdraw from this study?**

You can withdraw from this study at any time without providing a reason. Withdrawing will have no disadvantage for you, and you will hear no more about this study. Your data will only be submitted if you complete the study.

Your data will be saved entirely anonymised and is not possible to link the data to a particular person. For this reason, it is however not possible to delete the data entry of a specific person.

### **What should I do if I have any concerns about this study?**

If you have any concerns about the manner in which the study was conducted, in the first instance, please contact the researcher(s) responsible for the study Dr. George Fazekas -[g.fazekas@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:g.fazekas@qmul.ac.uk). If you have a complaint which you feel you cannot discuss with the researchers then you should contact the Research Ethics Facilitators by e-mail: [research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk). When contacting the Research Ethics Facilitators, please provide

details of the study title, description of the study and QMERC reference number (where possible), the researcher(s) involved, and details of the complaint you wish to make.

### **Who can I contact if I have any questions about this study?**

Ms. Ruby Crocker [r.o.n.crocker@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:r.o.n.crocker@qmul.ac.uk)

Dr. George Fazekas [g.fazekas@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:g.fazekas@qmul.ac.uk)