





The Con Espressione Game

Questionnaire on Music Expressivity

Question 1: Franz Liszt – "Bagatelle sans Tonalite, S. 216a"

Please listen to these excerpts, in any order, and as many times as you wish. Please, think of words (if possible, adjectives) that best describe the character of each performance to you. Concentrate on the performative aspects and not on the piece itself. Enter your response in the boxes to the right. You may enter as many words as you wish.

To be able to submit your responses, please fill in all the boxes.

You can also select the performance that you liked best by clicking on one of the radio buttons in the rightmost column.























































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1	-0:28	slow, sad, clear phrasing	○ Best
2	-0:27	soft, tender	○ Best
3	-0:36	flowing, mobile, deliberate, calm, rounded	○ Best
4	-0:35	mellow, gentle	○ Best
			Save and next



Sorting Musical Expression: Characterization of Descriptions of Expressive Piano Performances

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The Con Espressione Game

Research Aims: Find the dimensions of musical expression that can be attributed to a performance, as perceived and described in natural language by listeners

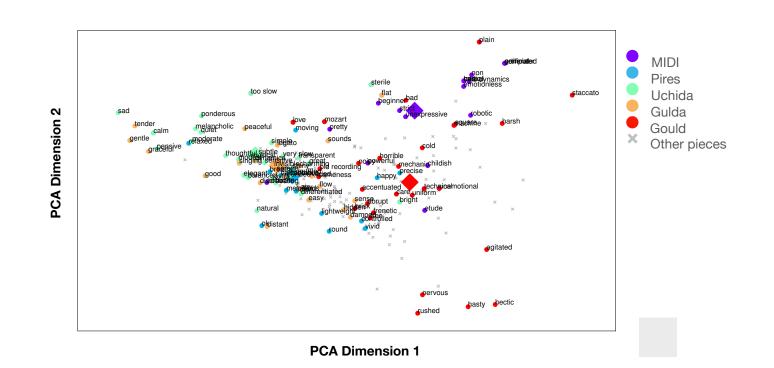
- · Web based questionnaire: verbal descriptors of expressive performance.
- Different performances of 9 classical piano pieces (45 performances)
- Dataset enriched with score-to-performance alignments

Composer	Piece	#	Pianists
Bach	Prelude No.1 in C, BWV 846 (WTC I)	7	Gieseking, Gould, Grimaud, Kempff, Richter, Stadtfeld, MIDI
Mozart	Piano Sonata K.545 C major, 2nd mvt.	5	Gould, Gulda, Pires, Uchida, MIDI deadpan
Beethoven	Piano Sonata Op.27 No.2 C# minor, 1st mvt.	6	Casadesus, Lazić, Lim, Gulda, Schiff, Schirmer
Schumann	Arabeske Op.18 C major (excerpt 1)	4	Rubinstein, Schiff, Vorraber, Horowitz
Schumann	Arabeske Op.18 C major (excerpt 2)	4	Rubinstein, Schiff, Vorraber, Horowitz
Schumann	Kreisleriana Op.16; 3. Sehr aufgeregt (ex 1)	5	Argerich, Brendel, Horowitz, Vogt, Vorraber
Schumann	Kreisleriana Op.16; 3. Sehr aufgeregt (ex 2)	5	Argerich, Brendel, Horowitz, Vogt, Vorraber
Liszt	Bagatelle sans tonalité, S.216a	4	Bavouzet, Brendel, Katsaris, Gardon
Brahms	4 Klavierstücke Op.119, 2. Intermezzo E minor	5	Angelich, Ax, Serkin, Kempff, Vogt

What are the main dimensions for expressive character?

Principal component analysis (PCA) on the occurrence matrix of the terms and find 4 principal dimensions

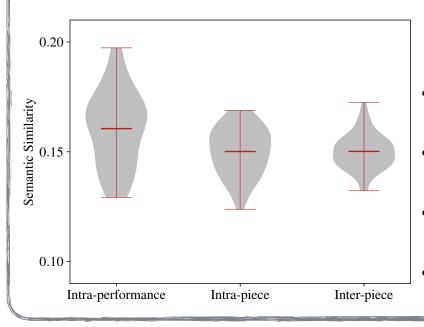
Dimension 1				Dimension 2			
positive correlation		negative correlation		positive correlation		negative correlation	
hectic	0.17	sad	-0.20	rushed	0.22	hard	-0.19
staccato	0.15	gentle	-0.18	nervous	0.20	stumbling	-0.18
hasty	0.15	tender	-0.18	too fast	0.17	staccato	-0.17
agitated	0.14	calm	-0.16	bit	0.16	ponderous	-0.14
irregular	0.14	graceful	-0.16	hasty	0.15	monotonous	-0.13
Dimension 3				Dimension 4			
positive correlation		negative correlation		positive correlation		negative correlation	
monotonous	0.22	heavy	-0.14	ok	0.24	cold	-0.15
bad	0.17	graceful	-0.13	happy	0.21	warm	-0.14
warm	0.16	smooth	-0.12	joyful	0.19	floating	-0.14
peaceful	0.16	ponderous	-0.12	free	0.15	blurred	-0.14
beautiful	0.15	soaring	-0.10	breathy	0.14	mysterious	-0.13



How similarly do listeners describe the performance of a piece?

Distribution of Terms

- 94 participants (on average listened to 4.5 out of 9 pieces)
- 88% had some musical training
- 1,515 individual descriptions, 3,166 terms (45% unique)





Semantic Similarity

- Semantic similarity for short sentences by [Li et al., 2007]
- Intra-performance: same piece, same pianist
- Intra-piece: same piece, other pianists
- inter-piece: other pieces

Pile Sorting Experiment

Participants

- Two groups of expert musicians (G1 and G2)
- Each group sorted (independently) 150 of the most frequently used terms that had been collected through the CEG.
- The number of piles as well as the types of similarity within the piles were left open.

Explore the interactive visualization!

Results

- G1 (25 piles), G2 (19 piles)
- Average maximal overlap (Szymkiewicz-Simpson coefficient):
- 62 % piles G1 with piles G2
- 65% piles G2 with piles G1
- Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) to explore the structure of the terms



Get the Dataset!



Acknowledgements

Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and agreement No. 670035 (project "Con Espressione") and by the Research Council of Norway through its Centers of Excellence scheme, project number 262762 and the **MIRAGE** project, grant number 287152.





The Con Espressione Game Dataset

- Listener's descriptions (>1500 individual descriptions)
- Listener's preferences (which performance of each piece was their favorite)
- A few questions on musical background of the participants (years of musical education, if they listen to classical music, if/how well they play piano)
- Manually corrected Score-to-performance alignments
 - synthesized MIDI data
 - Match files
 - Symbolic scores in MusicXML
- Audio features: loudness curves and magnitude spectrograms

