

Are You a Rhythm Master?

Test your abilities in a new research study

By Michael Schutz

I am incredibly excited to be bringing the MAPLE Lab on the road to PASIC in order to conduct a rhythm perception experiment. This experiment, which is open to all registered attendees, will test timing sensitivity using short rhythmic passages played on percussion instruments. We recently tested several top college percussion studios as well as the professional quartet TorQ, and we are now bringing our equipment right to YOU in Indianapolis! Percussionists of all levels are eligible, regardless of training or area of specialization.

Our goal is to better understand the cognitive basis of rhythm perception. This experiment will fit into a larger series of studies using other instrumentalists (i.e., non-percussionists), vocalists, and non-musicians. Ultimately this research will inform our understanding of rhythm, and it holds important implications for both music education and music cognition. This special opportunity is part of a larger initiative put forth by Dr. Kevin Lewis and the PAS Scholarly Research committee to actively promote new research. Participants in this experiment will learn first-hand about the challenges and opportunities of engaging in cognitively based percussion research.

The MAPLE (Music, Acoustics, Perception, and LEarning) Lab is affiliated with the McMaster Institute for Music and the Mind,

and it is housed within the School of the Arts (Hamilton, Ontario). In addition to standard equipment such as sound booths, computers, and testing equipment, the lab owns a significant amount of percussion equipment (including a 5.0-octave marimba and an electronic drumset), offering opportunities for students interested in exploring a variety of percussion-focused questions. Our research interests range from exploring the communication of emotion in music to using music perception experiments to inform treatments for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). We are also engaged in a large-scale project exploring the perception and production of percussive sounds. For more information, see an overview of some of our research on a “musical illusion” in the March 2013 edition of *Percussive Notes* (“Effectively Using Affective Gestures: What percussionists need to know about movement and perception”).

We will be testing throughout the convention in 50-minute slots starting on the hour to facilitate integration with the convention’s grid structure. Slots are limited and prizes will be awarded, so please sign up now to reserve your spot for this new opportunity! To register and/or receive additional information please visit www.maplelab.net/PASIC, or contact Fiona Manning at manningfc@mcmaster.ca.

Michael Schutz is Assistant Professor of Music Cognition/Percussion at McMaster University where he directs the percussion ensemble and leads the MAPLE Lab, whose research has secured over \$1 million in external funding. A popular speaker, he regularly lectures at leading universities including Michigan State, Minnesota, Indiana, Toronto, McGill, Rochester, Buffalo, and Radford, and will soon begin blogging for *Psychology Today*. Prior to McMaster, Michael spent five years as Director of Percussion Studies at Longwood University, performing frequently with the Roanoke and Lynchburg Symphonies and serving as principal percussionist with Opera On the James. He remains an active performer, and is featured on Judith Shatin’s latest album, *Time to Burn* (Innova Recordings). Michael holds percussion degrees from Penn State (BMA) and Northwestern (MM), in addition to a PhD in Cognitive Psychology. For more information, please visit www.michaelschutz.net. PN



MAPLE LAB TESTING
Thursday–Saturday
9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

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