

Does Your Listening Stack Up?

Test your skills in a new research study

By Michael Schutz

I am excited to be bringing my team back to Indianapolis to continue several research projects at PASIC. Our goal is twofold: first, to better understand music's psychological roots, and second, to offer "hands on" opportunities for those interested in learning about interdisciplinary approaches to music research. Our experiments will involve listening to short musical excerpts and then making judgments about these passages. Your participation can help lead to a better understanding of the ways in which we process and evaluate musical information. Additionally, this will be a great opportunity for learning about research approaches relevant for DMA, MM, and undergraduate projects! All percussionists are eligible, regardless of level of training, area(s) of specialization, and/or past participation. We will be conveniently located once again directly above the exhibit hall in CSO-4.

In conjunction with Dr. Kevin Lewis and the PAS Scholarly Research Committee, we will also be assisting with a new "Exploring Research Initiative," displaying posters outside the testing area in an interactive discussion of how scholarly research can inform best practices for music making. These posters will discuss exciting results from a variety of studies on topics including rhythm perception, body movement's influence on music evaluation, analysis of musical structure, and other practical topics. We will also have information on the results from last year's experiments, so if you participated at PASIC 2013 please stop by to learn what we discovered.

The MAPLE (Music, Acoustic, Perception and Learning) Lab is the world's first federally funded research facility with a percussion focus. We are housed within McMaster's School of the Arts, which offers an interdisciplinary undergraduate music cognition specialization in conjunction with the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour. The MAPLE Lab (www.maplelab.net) currently supports four graduate and a dozen undergraduate students, several of whom also perform in the McMaster University Percussion Ensemble. One of our lab goals is to pursue cognitively based research on questions of relevance for percussionists.

My team's projects investigate how our body movements affect audience perception of per-

ussion concerts, examine ways to improve our rhythm perception abilities, and explore the communication of emotion in music. Through a network of collaborators we are expanding into clinical work to improve treatments for children with autism spectrum disorder and help adults with hearing impairments. We also assist others with research studies to encourage greater exploration of scholarly projects informing music performance and education. We recently motion-captured members of Third Coast Percussion performing Steve Reich's "Clapping Music" and are assisting Russell Hartenberger and Bob Becker with technical analyses of phrase timings in their performance of "Drumming."

Although we will be accepting in-person registrations, we suggest early signups online at www.maplelab.net/PASIC to avoid disappointment (we were unable to accommodate all in-person requests last year). Register now to secure a cupcake from Indianapolis's top bakery, tickets for a prize raffle, and help us better understand the psychology of music! We would like to thank Petro Canada as well as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for sponsoring this trip. For additional information contact Fiona Manning at manningf@mcmaster.ca.

Michael Schutz is Assistant Professor of Music Cognition/Percussion at McMaster University, where he conducts the percussion ensemble, supervises graduate students, and teaches undergraduate courses on music cognition. He was recently honored with the \$25,000 Young Innovator Award in recognition of his success in bridging music performance and music perception. His interdisciplinary research is supported by several major grants and is now featured prominently in multiple textbooks. Michael remains active as a percussionist, having recently performed at the Ontario Day of Percussion, appeared on Judith Shatin's latest album, *Time to Burn* (Innova Records), and taught at the Honors Music Institute (Penn State). Prior to joining the McMaster Institute for Music and the Mind, 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. Michael holds percussion degrees from Penn State (BMA) and Northwestern (MM), where he studied with Michael Burritt, as well as degrees in Cognitive Psychology and Computer Science. For more information, visit www.michaelschutz.net. **PN**

RESEARCH

MAPLE LAB

Thursday–Saturday
9:00 A.M. –5:00 P.M.