

He Started the Whole World
Singing a Song

Music and Language

“Where words leave off, music begins.”

“Where words leave off, music begins.”

“Where words fail, music speaks.”

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“Music is the universal language of mankind.”

Neuropsychology

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“Music learning matches the speed and effort of language acquisition.”

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“Music learning matches the speed and effort of language acquisition.”

“There is a deep early entanglement of music and language.”

Psychoacoustics

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“Hierarchical processing in Broca's area is a common function shared between language and music.”

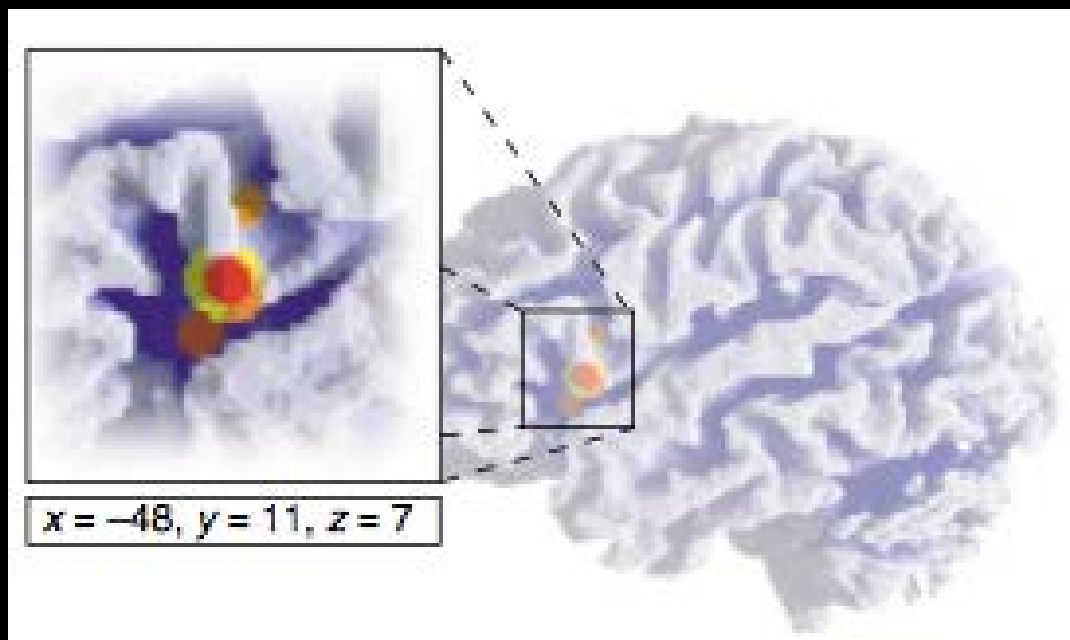
Neuroimaging

Neuroimaging

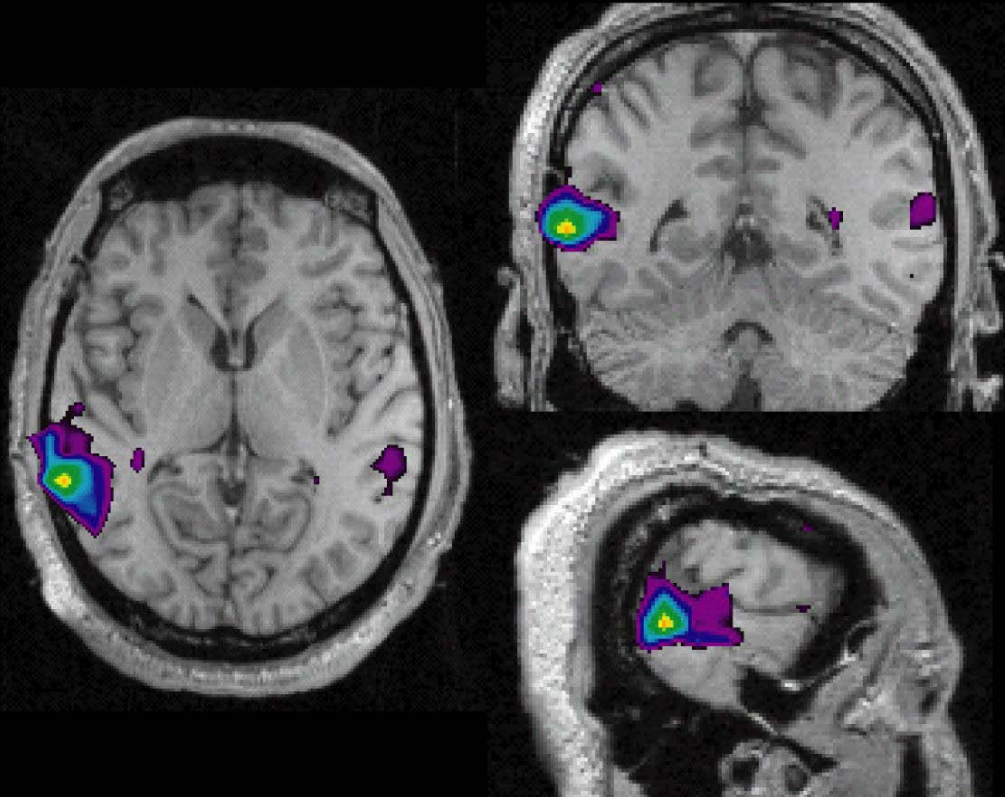
“The areas of the musicians' brains linked to syntax and language processing were activated. They are using the syntactic areas of their brain to respond by playing a new series of notes that hasn't previously been composed or practiced.”

Neuroimaging

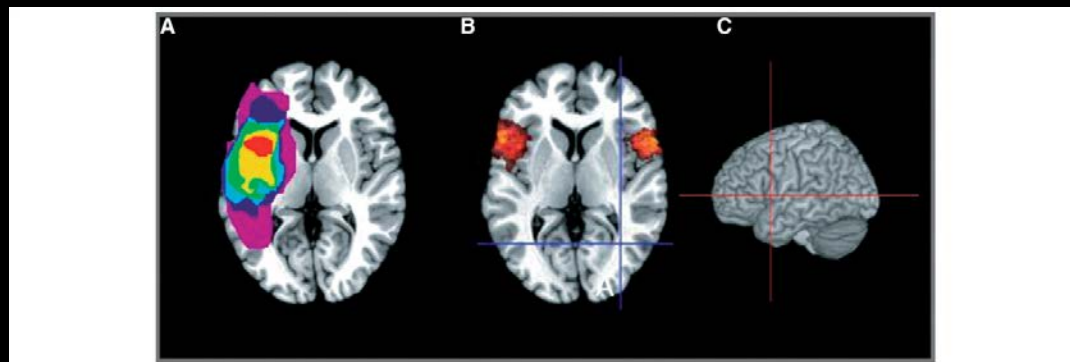
**MEG Scan
(Magnetoencephalography Scan)**



MRI Scan
(Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scan)



PET Scan
(Positron Emission Tomography Scan)



There is a deep, foundational connection between how music and language are processed in the brain

Music and Meaning

“The whole problem can be stated quite simply by asking, ‘Is there any meaning to music?’ My answer to that would be, ‘Yes.’ And ‘Can you state in so many words what the meaning is?’ My answer to that would be, ‘No.’ Therein lies the difficulty.”

Music satisfies deeply human, biological needs

Music satisfies deeply human, biological needs

Music has no meaning

Music satisfies deeply human, biological needs

Music has no meaning

Music points to something broader and larger outside of itself

Music points to something broader and larger outside of itself

“Anything acquires meaning if it is connected with, or indicates, or refers to, something beyond itself, so that its full nature points to and is revealed in that connection.”

“Music is a grand signifier capable of conveying meaning.”

Semiology

Semiology

Signs and Symbols

Semiology

Signs and Symbols

Metaphor

“Metaphor is the generator and power-plant of music.”

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“Music has far reaching metaphorical powers in that it can name the unnamable, and communicate the unknowable.”

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Intrinsic meaning

Extrinsic meaning

BOTH

Holism

Holism

Which wing of an airplane is the most important one?

Holism

Which wing of an airplane is the most important one?

BOTH

Musical meaning, both intrinsic and extrinsic, exists to help us experience the full nature of the music itself

Music communicates

Music communicates meaning

Music and Theology

Throughout the Bible, music is used to celebrate the presence of God at work
in and through His creation

Old Testament

Song of Moses

Song of Moses

Tabernacle

Song of Moses

Tabernacle

Ark of the Covenant

Song of Moses

Tabernacle

Ark of the Covenant

Temple

New Testament

Incarnation

Believers

Music has the capacity to act as a channel through which one can experience
the presence of God

Music and Life

Music has the capacity to reveal the presence of God through the divine realities of hope, faith, and love

Hope

“We find ourselves living in the intersection of the times, of our time and God’s time, of the *then* and the *not yet*, a place full of intense pain and intense joy.”

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“Music has helped the human heart release its tears and sense anew the resilience of hope.”

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“Music has helped the human heart release its tears and sense anew the resilience of hope.”

Music helps us live in the tension of God’s time and our time

Faith

Mystery

Mystery

“Surely, the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”

Mystery

“Surely, the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”

Music has the capacity to awaken us to things that we hope for and do not see, yet experience consistently through the presence of Christ

Love

Sehnsucht

Sehnsucht

“Love is heavy.”

Sehnsucht

“Love is heavy.”

Music has the capacity to alert us to this hunger that is inside each and every one of us for the love of God

Hope, Faith, Life, Love

Hope, Faith, Life, Love



Conclusion

Before the song started, the world broken hearted
Was dreamlessly passing the long empty days
Then a dark, lonely hillside was spangled with light
And a song burst into the night

He started the whole world singing a song
The words and the music were there all along
What the song had to say was that love found a way
To start the world singing a song