



Music Listening as Exploratory Behavior

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Message from the Guest Editors

The aim of this Special Issue "Music Listening as Exploratory Behavior" is to broaden the scope of music listening to embrace the larger sonic world. Music, from this perspective, is considered as a sound environment, and listening as a process of exploration of this environment. It is an approach that conceives of music as both structured by the composer and musicians, and taking on an idiosyncratic structure imposed by the exploratory behavior of each individual listener. This exploratory behavior proceeds in real-time and can be seen as an epistemic tool for the understanding of music, with a major emphasis on active search rather than passive listening. Several mechanisms are involved in this process, such as the dynamics of attention and knowledge construction, both at the level of sensory information processing, emotional bodily resonance, and higher-level cognitive elaboration.

