The influence of individual differences on emotion perception in music and speech prosody

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The study reported here investigates the influence of individual differences on perception of emotion in music and speech: specifically we tested the mediating influence of personality, emotional intelligence, gender and musical training. A behavioural study collected two main types of data: continuous ratings of emotion perceived while listening to extracts of music and speech, using a computer interface which modelled emotion on two dimensions (arousal and valence), and demographic information including measures of personality (TIPI) and emotional intelligence (TEIQue-SF). We employed the novel statistical method of functional analysis of variance on the time series data which revealed a small number of statistically significant differences according to gender, emotional intelligence, emotional stability and musical training. This is the first time to our knowledge that effects of individual differences on continuous measures of emotion have been tested.

*Key words*: Arousal and valence; Psychoacoustics; Personality; Emotional Intelligence.

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