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Language, Music, and Dementia

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How does background music impact comprehension for musicians (musically trained individuals) vs nonmusicians (musically untrained individuals)?

This paper seeks to explore the effects of background music on the performance of musically trained and untrained individuals in comprehension. Based off of the evidence presented in the numerous peer-reviewed research evaluated in this paper including evidence of an overlap in systems used to process language and music in musicians (Patston & Tippett, 2011), I hypothesised that, background music would have a strong negative effect on musically trained individuals' comprehension during various performance tasks, while musically untrained individuals would be largely unaffected. I reviewed 20 sources in order to better understand the information that has been gained from studies of this nature in order to see if there are any commonalities in the results and conclusions of the research. If there are correlations between the results and conclusions drawn from the studies I will discuss, then I will bring awareness to them so that some form of a general consensus on the effects of background music on comprehension between musicians and nonmusicians may be articulated. The reason I chose to explore this topic was due to how I commonly listen to music while I complete any work including studying which all involve necessary comprehension. As someone who has not been musically trained, I was curious on whether or not someone with a strong music background would be more or less affected and/or distracted if they listened to background music while also doing various comprehension tasks.

There has been much debate surrounding the effect of background music on the performance of cognitive tasks. Studies have focused on the effect of factors such as tempo, intensity, and musical genre, as well as the effects on individuals with certain personality traits such as introversion and extraversion (Cassidy & Macdonald, 2007; Furnham & Bradley, 1997). Factors such as the level of musical training of participants have also been explored, although they have received less attention

Three different musical genres (classical, jazz, and pop) and a silent condition were used. They also hypothesized that background music would have a strong negative effect on musically trained participants' performance in the reading task, while musically untrained participants would be unaffected. The findings of the study support the hypothesis, with musically trained participants' scores decreasing by 10.63% during the music conditions, while untrained participants' scores were unaffected. It was also predicted that the strongest negative effect on performance would occur in the popular music condition, due to the presence of lyrics. This prediction was also supported, with musically trained individuals' performance decreasing by 15.9% during the popular music condition, although untrained individuals' performance was unaffected. These findings may have important implications for musically trained individuals, as they suggest that background music can have a strong impact on the effectiveness of their comprehension, and as a result, their learning and studying

Outline:

Thesis-

- ❑ Using the following studies, I will discuss and evaluate the ways in which background music impacts and influences comprehension, learning, and memory for people with musical experience and people without musical experience.

Introduction-

- ❑ Organization of research categories on learning versus memory and versus comprehension.
- ❑ Reasoning on the differentiation of musicians versus nonmusicians
- ❑ Formulating the order of events in what will be discussed.

Body-

- ❑ Going through each category and research that will be discussed and providing well-developed discussion and analysis.
- ❑ Comparing and Contrasting the results of the studies within each category in order to provide adequate conclusions based on the methodologies and findings of the research.

Conclusion-

- ❑ Providing consideration and appraisal of the given evaluation on the information provided by the research as well as reviewing the following conclusions.

Resources:

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