Introduction of speakers

AM: Morning Session 10 am – 12 30pm
Chair: Dr. Lise Gagnon

10 am Dr. Nathalie Gosselin
BRAMS, Université de Montréal

Music Intervention to reduce stress

Nathalie Gosselin, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at the University of Montreal, Department of Psychology, and a researcher at the International Laboratory on Brain, Music and Sound Research(BRAMS) and CRBLM (Centre for Research on brain, language and music). She focuses primarily on the effect of music on cognition, mood, health, and stress, both in individuals struggling with neuropsychological disorders or mental health problems, than in people without neurological impairment or psychiatric disturbances. Her studies are designed to examine the effects of background music on cognition Nathalie Gosselin’s work with brain-damaged adults has increased understanding of brain organization in recognizing musical emotions. In particular, it demonstrated the key role of the amygdala in the perception of fear evoked by music. Nathalie Gosselin is also Neuropsychologist. She was a clinician at the Hôpital Rivière-des-Prairies, a mental health center affiliated with the University of Montreal, where she did neuropsychological assessments with children and adults with various mental disorders (ex., autism spectrum disorder, mood disorder, anxiety disorder, attention deficit disorder).

10 30 am Dr. Anna Zumbansen
Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, Jewish General Hospital, McGill University.

Current research questions on the Melodic Intonation Therapy for aphasia rehabilitation

Anna Zumbansen has a clinical background in speech and language pathology. She received her clinical training and professional degrees both in France, at the Université François Rabelais de Tours and in Canada at the Université de Montréal. She has worked with various clinical populations but has also specialized in voice disorders and aphasia. She did her PhD at BRAMS, where she led several studies evaluating singing as a tool for language rehabilitation after stroke. She demonstrated that the use of vocal melodic elements may be a significant therapeutic factor in the Melodic Intonation Therapy used for Broca’s aphasia and ran the first randomized controlled study of choir practice on aphasia rehabilitation. Anna is currently a postdoc in Dr. Alexander Thiel’s neuroplasticity laboratory where she examines treatment-related language recovery after stroke with magnetic resonance imaging and non-invasive brain stimulation techniques (TMS and tDCS). Anna Zumbansen is also the creator of the Montreal Assessment of Connected Speech (MACS), a standardized test designed to evaluate language improvement in natural connected speech.

10 30 – 11 00pm Coffee Break
11 00 am Dr. Floris van Vugt
McGill University

**Motor rehabilitation using musical auditory feedback**

Dr. Van Vugt is a postdoctoral researcher at McGill University in Prof. David Ostry's lab. His research investigates how the way we perceive influences the way we act, and how perception is shaped by action. He uses behavioural and neuroscientific tools to understand how sensory and motor systems in the brain interact, through studying motor learning in speech and music. In his free time I enjoy playing the baroque oboe.

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12 noon Dr. Megha Sharda,
BRAMS, Université de Montréal

**Music improves social communication in autism – A randomized control trial**

Dr. Megha Sharda is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Auditory Brain and Cognitive Development Laboratory of Dr. Krista Hyde at BRAMS, University of Montreal. Her research interests include investigation of language and music processing in special populations such as children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Her research combines neuropsychological testing with multimodal brain imaging to conduct multidisciplinary investigations of music-based rehabilitation. She has conducted the first randomized control trial of music interventions in autism combining both behaviour and neuroimaging that she will talk about today.

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PM: Afternoon Session: 1 30 pm – 4 pm
Chair: Guylaine Vaillancourt / Krista Hyde

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1 30pm Dr. Aline Moussard,
CRIUGM, Université de Montréal

**Does music practice help reduce age-related cognitive decline?**

Aline Moussard is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Geriatric Institute of the University of Montreal. Her training started in the clinical field with a Masters in Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Lille-3 (France), followed by a joint Ph.D. in Neuropsychology at the University of Burgundy (France) and the University of Montreal, and by a first post-doctoral fellow at the Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest (Toronto). For the past 10 years, she has been working on using music to support or boost older adults’ cognitive functions. She is currently coordinating a multisite study, in the context of the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA), where music practice is used as a stimulating activity to improve brain resilience and delay age-related cognitive decline.
2pm Dr. Laurel Young  
Concordia University

**Developing a Best Practices Model of “Musical Health” for Persons Living with Dementia**

Dr. Laurel Young is a certified music therapist (MTA), Psychotherapist (Québec N° de permis 61453-15), and Fellow of the Association for Music & Imagery (FAMI). She currently works as a Graduate Programs Coordinator and Associate Professor of Music Therapy at Concordia University. She has over 22 years of diverse clinical experience. Dr. Young is a research member of several organizations including le Centre de recherche et d'expertise en gérontologie sociale (CREGÉS), the PERFORM Centre, and the newly established Arts in Health Research Collective (AHRC)—an initiative lead by Concordia's Creative Arts Therapies Department.

3pm: Keynote/CRBLM Distinguished Lecture:  
Dr. Michael Thaut  
University of Toronto

**How music can help to heal the injured brain**

Dr. Michael H. Thaut, PhD, is currently a Professor of Music at the University of Toronto with cross-appointments in Rehabilitation Science and Neuroscience. He also holds an appointment as Collaborator Scientist at the CAMH Neuroimaging Research Center. He is Director of the Music and Health Science Research Center (MAHRC) and Music and Health Sciences Graduate programs at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Thaut received his Master’s and PhD in Music from Michigan State University, with a cognate minor in movement science. He holds a special diploma in music from the Mozarteum University in Salzburg/Austria and a German Diploma in Psychology/Education from the University of Muenster. Prior to his appointment at the University of Toronto, he was a Professor of Music and Professor of Neuroscience as well as Director of the School of the Arts at Colorado State University. He has held many other visiting positions internationally including at Düsseldorf University Medical School, Heidelberg University of Applied Sciences, and Kurashiki Sakuyo Music University in Japan to name a few.

Dr. Thaut is an international leader in neuroscience and music and has internationally recognized research in relation to the applications of auditory neuroscience, specifically for music and rhythm, to neurological rehabilitation. He has over 200 scientific publications and is the co-editor of the Oxford Handbook of Music Psychology and the Oxford Handbook of Neurologic Music Therapy which was runner-up in the annual British Medical Association book award in the category “Best New Book in Neurology 2015”. He is the president of the International Society for Clinical Neuromusicology and Vice President of the International Society for Music and Medicine.

He and his team developed the clinical system of Neurological Music Therapy, which is evidence based, applied worldwide in neurorehabilitation, and endorsed by the World Federation of Neurorehabilitation.

As a former professional violinist in the classical and folk genre, Dr. Thaut has recorded several LPs/CDs and has toured throughout Europe extensively.