



Why We Like Music

Ear, Emotion, Evolution

by Silvia Bencivelli

translated by Stephen Thomson Moore

“A fascinating book, accessible to all readers” – *Le Scienze*

Is it really true that listening to Mozart makes us and our children smarter? Why is there always classical background music in high-class restaurants? Does opera really make cows give more milk and do sharks like Barry White?

Darwin believed our ancestors used music in courting, and this eventually led to words. Others reckon music has the same evolutionary role as a delicious cream pie: none. Why, then, do we have music, and how exactly does it give us pleasure?

Though scientists have been busy in laboratories and in the field, they propose no unanimous conclusion as yet. From Neanderthal to Metallica, from Pythagoras to neuroscience, this book covers the state of the art in research about our relationship with music, and ends up depicting the birth of a new, extremely fertile and exciting science.

Studies of music and the brain have recently **attracted intense interest** leading to the success of recent books by Daniel J. Levitin, John M. Ortiz, Aniruddh D. Patel, Oliver Sacks, Michael H. Thaut, and others. Bencivelli's **distinctive contribution** is a broad and **inclusive approach**, and an **easy writing style** intended to introduce **non-specialist readers** to the ways scientists formulate questions and look for answers in this new and fascinating field.

“[T]he dividing line between research that rigorously studies [how music makes children more coordinated, dexterous and alert] within the framework of neuroscience and the kind that claims, with no solid scientific basis, that music makes you smarter is very narrow—even narrower, perhaps, than the line separating sensible from pointless research in the field of clinical medicine.”

Marketing

- Unlimited electronic galleys to bloggers and other influencers in science, music and culture
- 100 pre-release review copies to national and specialist media
- Book site at www.WhyWeLikeMusic.info
- Radio book show appearances
- Release party, Hudson NY



About the author

SILVIA BENCIVELLI is a medical and science journalist who reports and presents for Italian radio and TV. She was an Armenise-Harvard Fellow and was awarded the Tomassetti prize for science journalism in 2010.

About the publisher
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