



LECTURE SERIES  
**MUSIK &  
MEDIZIN**

From Perception to Pleasure:  
The Neuroscience of Music  
and why we Love it

Robert J. Zatorre  
(McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, CA)

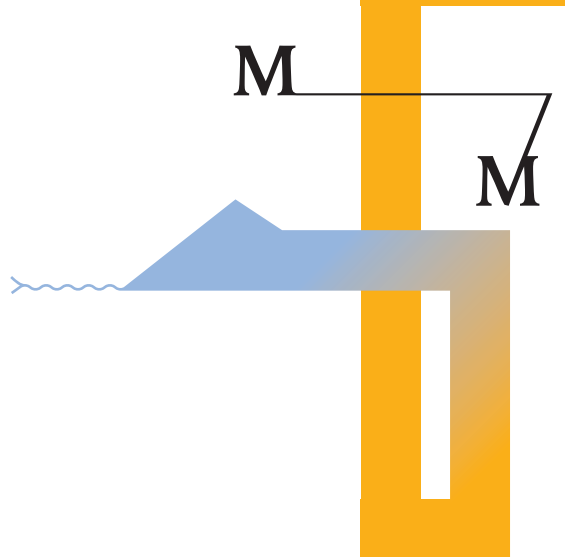
November 25, 2021

18:00 Salzburg (CET) | 12:00 Montreal (EDT)

Online Lecture

Participation free of charge. No registration required

EINE KOOPERATION VON



MUSIK&MEDIZIN

# From Perception to Pleasure: The Neuroscience of Music and why we Love it

Robert J. Zatorre (McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, CA)



In this lecture I will present findings from cognitive neuroscience that bear on the question of how we get from perception of sound patterns to pleasurable responses. I will first discuss evidence that corticocortical loops from and to the auditory cortex are responsible not only for perceptual processes but also for working memory, sensory-motor, and predictive functions that are essential to produce and perceive music. Then, I will discuss neuroimaging and brain modulation studies from our lab focusing on the dopaminergic reward system, its involvement in musical pleasure, and what happens when that system is disrupted. I propose that pleasure in music arises from interactions between cortical loops that enable expectancies to emerge from perceived sound patterns, and subcortical systems responsible for reward and valuation. This model integrates knowledge derived from basic neuroscience of reward mechanisms with independently derived concepts, such as tension and anticipation, from music theory. It may also serve as a way of thinking more broadly about aesthetic rewards.

**Prof. Robert J. Zatorre, Ph.D.** is a cognitive neuroscientist. He currently holds a Canada Research Chair in Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience at the Montreal Neurological Institute of McGill University.

The Salzburg lecture series **MUSIK&MEDIZIN** presents scientific and artistic contributions from leading international experts in various disciplines to explore the interactions and mechanisms between the experience, processing and psycho-physiological impact of music on humans and to understand how music may promote health and wellbeing. – The lecture is part of an interdisciplinary course where the referents discuss themes of their fields of research. – **Idea & Direction:** Katarzyna Grebosz-Haring (*Systematic Musicologist | Programme Area (Inter)Mediation, Focus Area Science & Art | University Mozarteum Salzburg / Paris Lodron University Salzburg*) – **In cooperation with** Günther Bernatzky (*Biologist | Paris Lodron University Salzburg*) and Leonhard Thun-Hohenstein (*Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Paracelsus Medical Private University Salzburg*) – **Contact & Information:** Ingeborg.Schrems@plus.ac.at | Tel. +43 662 8044 2380



**Access Data Webex:**

<https://globalpage-prod.webex.com/join>

Meeting number (access code):

2731 159 8600

Meeting password: ARkM7ST6PP7

