Optimizing Music Learning: The Neuroscience of Skill Practice and Memory Formation

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(Via Skype)

Abstract: Research over the past two decades has revealed important insights into the formation, refinement, and retrieval of skill memories. Surprising findings about how the brain develops memories for skills not only make the process of music learning more understandable, but also suggest ways to make practice a more positive and productive experience for both accomplished and developing musicians. In this presentation, Cash will report recent findings that continue to illuminate the processes of music learning. The discussion will describe connections between current understanding of human learning and memory and a number of different components related to how and when we engage in music practice. Information from music pedagogy, cognitive science, kinesiology, and neuroscience will be synthesized to further describe how our understanding of the neural mechanisms involved in skill learning can inform intelligent and effective music learning.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Audience participation via Skype is also welcome.