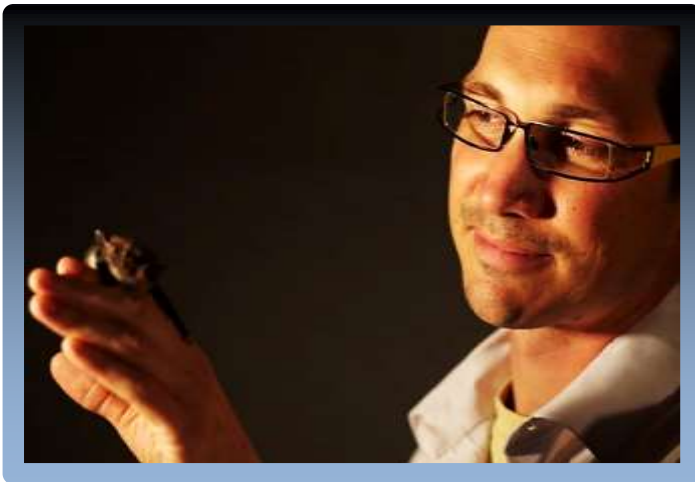


Seminar Series

Topics in the Aesthetics of Music and Sound

Thursday, September 18, 2014
3:15-5 p.m. in U67

The Real "All-singing, All-dancing" Thing: Sound Production and Communication in Songbirds



Coen Elemans, PhD

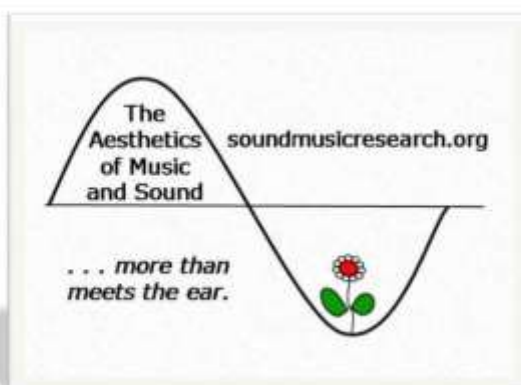
Associate Professor

Institute of Biology, University of Southern Denmark

Abstract: Humans possess the ability to learn language-specific sounds from other humans in a process called vocal imitation learning. Surprisingly, our genetically closest relatives, the great apes, are not capable of vocal learning and all their vocalizations are innate. While considered a uniquely human feature long ago, we now know many other animals can learn their vocalizations, such as bats, whales, and many birds. Especially the songbirds have developed into an important model system for vocal learning, but also for answering some of the most fundamental questions in behavioral neuroscience. Song behavior depends on the integrated action of neural systems for auditory perception, song production, song learning and the processing of social information. Interestingly, while we have identified many components of the specialized and interacting neural circuits, we lack mechanistic insights into their function. In this presentation, I introduce the beautiful birdsong system and discuss similarities and differences in mechanisms of sound production and control with humans.



All are welcome - also via Skype 🌿



- Cross-Disciplinary Interplay between the Humanities, Technology and Musical Practice
- Backdrop for the SDU-IKV Research Program

