Thursday, September 5, 2013 3:15-5 p.m. in U73

Guest lecture in the seminar series
Topics in the Aesthetics of Music and Sound

- arranged by **The Aesthetics of Music and Sound – www.soundmusicresearch.org – Cross-Disciplinary Interplay between the Humanities, Technology and Musical Practice**; Institute for the Study of Culture, University of Southern Denmark -

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Music in the Brain and Body
Erik Christensen
PhD, Aalborg University

Abstract: Erik Christensen will present an introduction to research in the neurosciences and music, with special focus on research highlights 2011-2013. His PhD thesis "Music Listening, Music Therapy, Phenomenology and Neuroscience" is available online at http://www.mt-phd.aau.dk/phd-theses/.

The presentation introduces central issues in neuroscience, including music's relation to motion and entrainment, emotion and pleasure, novelty and memory. An overview indicates methods, perspectives and limitations of current research.

Music exerts a direct impact on the body, engages the whole brain, and activates particular functions in the brain.

Musical examples illustrate bodily reactions to music, such as arousal, tension and relaxation, expectation, prediction and fulfillment. Some music listeners experience "chills" or "shivers down the spine" triggered by well-known music.

Images of the brain clarify functional systems of the brain essential for the musical experience, including different levels in the brain, multisensory integration, and the potential functions of the neuromodulators dopamine, serotonin and acetylcholine.

Examples from music therapy research indicate the potential effects of music in stress treatment and stroke rehabilitation.

Final remarks point out differences between two important approaches to insight in music, the first-person perspective of music phenomenology and the third-person perspective of neuroscience, as well as current attempts at reconciling these two fields of research.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Audience participation via Skype is also welcome.