



Cross-Disciplinary Interplay
between the Humanities,
Technology and Musical
Practice

**Thursday,
September 22,
2:15-4 p.m. in U73.**

Guest lecture in the seminar
series

**Topics in the
Aesthetics of Music
and Sound,**

<http://soundmusicresearch.org/seminarsfall2011.html>.

Immanuel Kant and Eighteenth-Century Musical Thought

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(via Skype)



Abstract: Immanuel Kant's views on music are generally taken to be of little interest. This is due to two presumptions: (i) that Kant straightforwardly dismissed music as (in his own words) 'more pleasure than culture'; and (ii) that he did so either out of blind prejudice or out of unthinking adherence to the standards of his age. In this presentation, I question both of these assumptions. I begin by showing how, although Kant did indeed have a low opinion of

music, his dismissal is not nearly as straightforward as it may initially seem. I then argue that the reason behind Kant's negative assessment of music is the philosophical context of his philosophy as a whole. I conclude by suggesting that Kant is a prime example of the way in which changes in musical thought in the late eighteenth century were, to a large extent, driven by changes in philosophy with little or no direct concern with music.

In order to make the presentation accessible to non-specialists, I include brief introductions to eighteenth-century musical thought and to Kant's philosophy.

ALL ARE WELCOME!