Research Project Topics

1. How do listeners perceive musical form? Are there certain types of musical form that are aesthetically more appealing? (e.g., ABA form is preferred to ABAB or AA or ABC, etc.)

2. How does timbre affect the perceived tempo of music?

3. How do abstract moving images (video without semantic content) affect perceived emotion when listening to music?

4. How is pitch memory affected by various types of non-musical interference sounds? For example, different types of noise, speech in different languages, etc.

5. What types of music are most distracting when doing simple mathematical problems (e.g., fast arithmetic)?

6. Does interval size affect how listeners perceive emotion in atonal music?

7. How does repetition affect memory for melodies?

8. How does harmonization affect how similar melodies are perceived by listeners?

9. How is memory for melodies affected by meter? Are there differences in how well melodies are recalled/recognized depending on whether the melody is perceived in duple vs. triple meter? Simple vs. compound?

10. How do changes in harmony affect the perceived duration of music?

11. Do listeners like music more when phrases are of a certain length? Does tempo affect this preference?

12. Does having some sort of abstract visual analog to pitches or melodies (such as colors and shapes) help composers - both trained and untrained - write music?