

Editor's note

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It has been just over a year since I assumed the Editorship of *Empirical Musicology Review*, and the work has been enormously rewarding. I would like to thank all of the contributors to the four issues in 2008. It has been another strong year for EMR. Some of the established researchers who have contributed articles to EMR in the past year include Tonya Bergeson, Ian Cross, Steve Demorest, Zohar Eiten, Toumas Eerola, Bob Gjerdingen, Henkjan Honing, John Iversen, Roger Kendall, Josh McDermott, Glenn Schellenberg, Michael Schutz, Johan Sundberg, Sten Ternström, and Petri Toiviainen. We were also delighted to publish a number of excellent articles and commentaries by relatively new researchers in the field.

David Huron, one of the driving forces behind EMR, recently attended a celebration of the 10th anniversary of *Knowledge Bank*. He was able to confirm that there is excellent download traffic for EMR, with as many as 10,000 downloads of certain papers (Temperley, 2006). Needless to say, those at *Knowledge Bank* are delighted with the success of EMR. Within the next year or two, they intend to provide us with even better user statistics, such that we will be able to track the number of downloads for every article.

Working closely with the journal has given me a great appreciation for the target-article and commentary format. Too often in scholarly journals, controversies, disagreements, and suggestions only arise in the anonymous process of peer review, and they are rarely made explicit. I have come to the conclusion that bringing such debates and discussions to the surface is an important strategy for stimulating research.

The last issue of EMR included a study by Lydia Slobodian on rhythmic tendencies of Korean and Western participants, with a commentary by John Iversen, as well as a lively debate on the relationship between musical and non-musical phenomena. Tierney, Bergesen, & Pisoni (2008) reported evidence for a link between music training and immediate memory span, which Schellenberg (2008) questioned in his commentary. In the current issue, Tierney, Bergesen and Pisoni defend their original claims.

The current issue includes three target articles. Olaf Post and David Huron report a study of tempo markings and the minor mode; Neha Khetrapal proposes a model to explain why music therapy can be an effective therapy for autism; and Mark Riggle proposes a simple explanation for the finding that rhythmic head movements can influence beat perception. These three target articles are then critically discussed in commentaries.

REFERENCES

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