

7/16/20 CI Music Hour Recap

Dear all,

Last Thursday, our guest Chrysa Kovach provided an overview of music fundamentals, such as pitch, frequency, timbre, notes and steps in an octave, intervals, major/minor scales, chords, beats and more. It was a lot. But since we have done the overview, we will break the content down into smaller bits in future sessions with Chrysa and revisit them through fun exercises.

We learned that in classical orchestra, all the instruments tune to the A note (440 Hz) played by an Oboe or first Violin, just before the concert starts. In a listening exercise, we listened to compiled recordings of the opening chord of Beethoven's Eroica Symphony from the 1920s to present day. We learned that not only instrumental balances changed over time giving different sounds but also the tunings were different.

<https://pacificsymphony.blog/2017/07/17/beethovens-eroica-opening-chords>

In another exercise, we listened to C major, C minor, C diminished and C augmented chords and compared. Each chord was played in individual three notes and followed by all of them played together in a chord. Our impressions were that individual notes were generally a lot easier to listen to than the chords. Distinguishing among the chords was a lot harder and impressions varied a lot by individuals. Ray pointed out that later model CI processors are better equipped to perceive chords.

We discussed the conventional idea of major/happy minor/sad in Western music is culture-conditioned and that perception isn't true for other musical cultures. In a continuation of what we talked about, Chrysa sent us a link to quizzes from The Music Lab at Harvard. The world music quiz tests perception of emotion in songs across the world. <https://www.themusiclab.org/quizzes/fc>.

Chrysa shared, also, a link to a good explanation of overtone series for those who are interested:

<https://musicstudent101.com/46-the-overtone-series.html>.

In our next session, we will return to home base with Ray. He will lead a brainstorm session with your input to set directions for upcoming trainings and tests that could help and be fun to do. We are looking forward to it!

I will follow-up with this week's survey.

All the best,

Juri