

Happy Wednesday!

CI Music Hour Recap 2/3/22

Last week we had the pleasure of learning from double bassist, Tim Pearson. Tim is currently based in Nashville where he performs with the Nashville Symphony, works as a studio recording artist, and teaches double bass.

We learned that the double bass has four strings and that its typical range spans from E1 to C4 on the piano. However, Tim uses a special extension on the scroll of his bass that allows him to play down to a C1. Traditionally this instrument is called the “double” bass because of its specific function in the classical era of music during which the instrument typically “doubled” the already existing bass line in a piece of music.

We had the pleasure of hearing Tim play multiple pieces of music for us including: the beginning of the last movement of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, which leads in to the famous tune “Ode to Joy,” “Eine Kleine Nachtmusik” by Mozart, a short blues excerpt, and “You Are My Sunshine.” Tim played several of these pieces using two techniques, one in which he used his bow to create a more smooth, connected, and legato sound, and another in which he used his fingers to pluck the strings (pizzicato) to create a more percussive and staccato sound. Several of our CI user participants found the pizzicato style easier to hear as the notes did not ‘bleed’ together as much, creating a cleaner sound.

Tim also discussed with the group the differences between “major” and “minor” in music. These sounds are created using slightly different sets of pitches which create distinctly different musical sounds. Tim demonstrated these differences by playing a variety of musical scales for the group in both the bowed and pizzicato styles. He also demonstrated this difference by playing a familiar tune, “You Are My Sunshine,” in both a major and minor key. Many CI users in our group were unable to hear the differences between these two sound qualities, while the differences for normal hearing CI users were clear. Learning to hear the difference between major and minor tonalities with a CI is something that takes time and practice. We are hoping to train CI users in improving upon this type of pitch perception with future tests in our lab!

Tomorrow's Music Hour 2/10/22

Tomorrow we will have a ‘get to know you’ music hour! Come ready to chat and get to know the other members of our group more personally. We will begin and end with a musical activity and spend the majority of the hour in small group discussions so you can get to know one another a bit more! **Lastly, if anyone has any song requests for our musical activities (it can be anything), send them our way before tomorrow’s music hour!**

Julianne & Chrysa