Hello everyone!

Below is a recap written by another one of our lovely high school volunteers, Elsa:

Recap 8/25/22
Dr. Emelyne Bingham's scientific journey began when she worked as a bass player and assistant conductor in the Nashville Symphony. Her experiences with music inspired her to research. She is now a senior lecturer in music theory and cognition at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music.
During the music hour, she played us a video of a toddler's spontaneous reaction to a church choir - seemingly conducting them. You can watch the video again here: Follow me when the sea rages. This spurred discussion about our natural reactions to music from an early age.

Next, we reviewed the seven sensory modalities, synesthesia (mapping one modality unto another, producing a measurable sensory response), and cross modal associations (perceptions that involve interactions between two or more sensory modalities). Additionally, Dr. Bingham shared her personal experience with autism and synesthesia (in her case, colors associated with pitch).

The main focus of the music hour was a review of Dr. Bingham's 2017/18 doctoral dissertation (published in 2021). She introduced her work through an interactive group activity. The group was instructed to say 'dah' in a way that they thought mimicked a specific conducting motion such as "punch" or "glide." Many individuals vocalized in a similar manner in response to the same conducting motion!
In Dr. Bingham's study she compared body language recognition between children with autism versus children without autism. She then recorded the children's vocalizations on the syllable 'dah' in response to each conducting movement. Then she asked expert reviewers to match which gesture the children were watching based on their vocal responses. Reviewers could more accurately match the vocalizations of children without autism for shorting conducting movements (i.e. punch) and could accurately match the vocalizations of children with and without autism higher for longer conducting movements (i.e. glide).

Dr. Bingham explained a second study in which children performed the conducting gestures by themselves. Both groups (children with and without autism) underwent motor training and picture narration training at pre- and post-test. The results showed the most significant improvement from pre- to post-test in conducting gestures in children with autism, indicating the importance of motor training for this community.

We ended the hour with a Q&A session, where members shared stories of their own children's connection with music and imitation.

CI Music Hour Next Week 9/8/22

This is a reminder that there will be no music hour tomorrow (9/1/22). Starting next week we will resume meeting EVERY Thursday from 12:30 to 1:30pm PDT for our music hour. We are still finalizing our presenter for next week, so we will send out details for this soon!

Wishing everyone a wonderful rest of the week!