Hello everyone!

CI Music Hour Recap 3/30/23
Last week we learned about the Euphonium from Dr. Chris Combest (https://www.chriscombest.com/). Chris explained to us that the word “euphonium” means “beautiful sound.” It is a conical instrument (often referred to as the "baby tuba") which gives it a more mellow and round sound. This contrasts with cylindrical instruments, such as the trumpet or trombone, which have more of a directional sound.
The Euphonium was invented in the mid 19th century, in the early days of the modern orchestra. Today, there are only about sixty orchestral pieces of music that include the Euphonium.
Chris shared several pieces of music with our group. He first performed a piece composed by one of his friends, called “Homage.” We also watched some videos of the predecessors of the Euphonium, including the “serpent” and the “bass trumpet.” Finally, Chris shared a video with the modern Euphonium, entitled “Moonlight Across the Water” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CO2FhD1VOgI).
Participants of the Music Hour shared that they enjoyed the sound of the lower pitched brass instrument. The instrument produced “warmer” tones which were more pleasing to some participants.

CI Music Hour This Week 4/6/23
This week, we will welcome Alan Puglisi who will be sharing all about the marimba with us! We will send out the link and reminder for our meeting on Thursday.

Bonus Meeting This Wednesday 4/5/23
We have a special guest researcher from Germany who is piloting a singing study for cochlear implant users. She and her team are very excited to share more about the project with our group and those of you who may be interested. Due to the time difference and different schedules, we will be meeting at **9am Pacific Time this Wednesday the 3rd** at our usual music hour link below:

Abstract:
Music and singing plays an important role in social communication. People with hearing impairments experience music in a degraded form, which can lead to lack of enjoyment and complete abandonment of music, which may have consequences on cognition and emotion. Cochlear implants can restore music perception abilities to people with severe-to-profound sensorineural hearing loss, but this effect varies significantly between CI users, depending on many factors such as music experience, duration of hearing loss, duration of music rehabilitation, etc... Most reported were challenges with musical pitch and timbre recognition. Much less studied is vocal singing abilities. We hypothesized that vocal pitch matching (singing on key) is directly associated with music perception and can be therefore used as a tool to assess music perception in CI users. To this end, we will collect singing samples of the "happy birthday" song in 20 CI users. In addition, CI users will be tested for music perception and speech in noise understanding with commonly used tests integrated in a first of its kind online platform.
Julianne