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## Syntax and Semantics of Music: Preface

Philippe Schlenker

*Institut Jean-Nicod & New York University*

Jurgis Skilters

*University of Latvia*

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PHILIPPE SCHLENKER

Institut Jean-Nicod & New York University\*

JURGIS ŠKILTERS

University of Latvia

## SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS OF MUSIC: PREFACE

This volume collects a sample of (revised and refereed) contributions to the 15th International Symposium of Cognition, Logic and Communication, devoted to ‘Syntax and semantics of music and dance: Formal and experimental approaches’ (Riga, November 26-27, 2021).

While less studied than linguistics, music cognition followed a somewhat similar path after the “cognitive revolution”, as it combined introspective judgments on sophisticated data, highly explicit formal models, and experimental methods. Formal linguistics was in some ways the continuation of grammar with scientific means, and similarly formal approaches to music cognition (notably in *Lerdahl & Jackendoff*’s pioneering work in the early 1980’s) built on insights of musicology, but within a far more sophisticated formal and theoretical framework. The field is now predominantly experimental, but research based on formal models continues to be active.

The papers that appear in this volume contribute to two topics of great contemporary relevance in music cognition: the development of

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\*Institut Jean-Nicod (ENS - EHESS - CNRS), Département d’Etudes Cognitives, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France; PSL Research University; New York University, New York

formal approaches to musical meaning; and the investigation of musical traditions that go beyond the narrow confines of Western tonal music.

Many thanks to all who have helped to organize the symposium and the further steps leading to this publication. First of all, we would like to thank Robert Blumberg, the honorary consul of the Republic of Latvia in Illinois (Chicago) who kindly donated the annual Robert Blumberg Distinguished Lecture in Cognitive Science. Many thanks to the University of Latvia Foundation and the Faculty of Computing at the University of Latvia. Many thanks to Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music, our co-organizer! Warmest thanks to the R. Blumberg prize committee. Many thanks to all careful reviewers both when organizing the symposium and preparing the publication. Finally, warmest thanks to the team of local organizers – Līga Zariņa, Solvita Umbraško, Santa Bartušēvica, Guntis Vilnis Strazds, Liene Viļuma. Work on this publication has also been supported by Mr. Andrejs Eglīte, the non-profit organization “Friends of the University of Latvia”, and the University of Latvia Foundation. The work on the volume honors the memory of Mr. Jānis Eglīte.

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