PSYC 228, Cognitive Psychology, Tues. Th. 2-3:15
Nicely 105
Music Cognition Module

The module will serve as a brief, but compact, introduction to music cognition. The emphasis will be on how the brain *constructs* musical experience out of the physical propagation of waves.

We will begin with the physical properties of *sound*, the essential properties of *music* (e.g. pitch and rhythm), and the basics of the *human auditory* system. We will then cover the main principles specific to the perception and cognition of music, including how music is represented in the brain, how the brain contributes to the "construction" of musical experience, and how music produces emotional effects. The readings will be drawn mostly from Daniel J. Levitin's, *This is Your Brain on Music*. Possibly included will be the following articles:

- "The Nature of Music from a Biological Perspective,"
- "The Neural Basis of Music-Evoked Emotions"
- and "Toward a Neural Basis of Music Perception"

We will also listen to some music.

In general, the module supposes a distinction between what are called primary and secondary qualities. The primary qualities being the physical, mathematically measurable qualities, such as the periodic motion of air molecules outside of your head, and the secondary qualities being the *mental quality of music* that occurs only *in* your head.