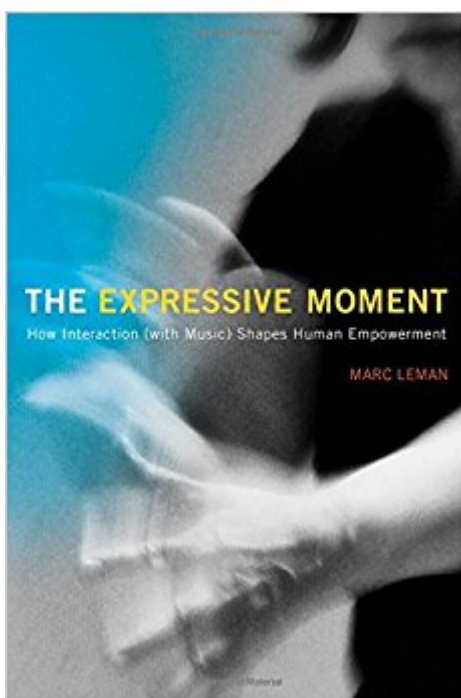


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The Expressive Moment: How Interaction (with Music) Shapes Human Empowerment (MIT Press)



Synopsis

The expressive moment is that point in time when we grasp a situation and respond quickly, even before we are aware of it. In this book, Marc Leman argues that expression drives this kind of interaction, and he proposes a general framework for understanding expressive interactions. He focuses on the dynamic, fast, and pre-reflective processes underlying our interactions with music -- whether we are playing an instrument, dancing, listening, or using new interactive technologies. Music offers a well-established domain for studying these fast and interactive processes, and Leman argues that understanding the power of expressive interaction through music may help us understand cognitive processing in other domains, including language, human action coordination, human-animal interaction, and human-machine interaction. Leman regards expressive interactions with music as energizing and empowering. He argues that music is based on patterns that intervene with a reinforcing loop in the human brain, strengthening learning, motivation, and reward. He argues further that the reinforcing effect is influenced by the interaction flow, by fast processes that handle expressive qualities on the fly. Leman sets out the framework in which expressive interaction is situated, describing, among other things, a pragmatic model of communication in which the fundamental components are enactment and dynamics. He looks in more detail at the cognitive-motivational architecture, discussing sensorimotor and motivational schemes. Finally, he discusses applications for the concepts behind expressive motivation in such fields as sports, entertainment, rehabilitation, multimedia art, and music education.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An all-encompassing view on how and why we interact with music. Leman's treatise on musical expression gets to the heart of what it means to be human -- the innate communicative drive that makes us social beings -- with an impressive blend of intellectual rigor and ability to pursue lines of thought that range beyond the square. (Peter Keller, Professor of Cognitive Science, MARCS Institute for Brain, Behavior and Development, Western Sydney University) Marc Leman's *The Expressive Moment* is an excellent follow up to *Embodied Music Cognition and Mediation Technology*, his first MIT Press opus. This work is based on research results spanning over almost a decade and provides solid evidence to several of the claims laid out in his first book. A must read! (Marcelo M. Wanderley, Professor of Music Technology, McGill University) Marc Leman's book is an excellent synthesis of current embodied music cognition research. Highly recommended for anyone curious about how people engage with music. (Rolf Inge Godfroy, Professor of Musicology, University of Oslo)

Marc Leman is Methusalem Research Professor in Systematic Musicology at Ghent University and the author of *Embodied Music Cognition and Mediation Technology* (MIT Press).

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