

Steven Mithen • Colwyn Trevarthen • Jan Fagius

The Swedish Conference on Communication, Music and Language 2010

– Exploring human communicative development from
an interpersonal musical and linguistic perspective!

*”His eyes are closed because he is thinking;
his mouth is open because he is singing.”*



The Swedish Conference on Communication, Music and Language 2010

Stockholm 19 november 2010, Campus Konradsberg, Stockholms Universitet

The conference is aimed at teachers, therapists, speech therapists, psychologists, neurologists, linguists, historians and cultural workers, in fact to all with an interest in interpersonal interaction, music and language.

Two world authorities, in each their field – professor of archaeology [Steven Mithen](#) and biologist, psychologist and infant researcher [Colwyn Trevarthen](#) – are getting together with consultant in neurology and scientist [Jan Fagius](#) to present and discuss:

What significance has non-verbal, musical communication in the development of social cognition, attachment and spoken language?

How did people communicate before development of a spoken language? How do we communicate before we start to speak? What significance has non-verbal communication after development of a spoken language?

How was the spoken language born? What role was played by music? Was it unimportant in this connection?

Are there parallels between human evolutionary language development and language acquisition on an individual level; how does a small child learn its mother tongue?

Is the prosody, melody and rhythm of the spoken language, related to melody and rhythm of music?

What is the relationship between linguistic and musical memory?

What pedagogical and therapeutic conclusions can be made from modern knowledge of communication, music and language?



There will be three presentations followed by a panel discussion with speakers and audience taking part. The conference language is English.

Presentation headlines and introduction of researchers and experts taking part.



“The co-evolution of music and language: evidence from the archaeological and fossil records”

Steven Mithen, professor of Archaeology at The University of Reading, England, has special interest in social cognition, language and music. In his book "The Singing Neanderthals" he builds up a unique cross scientific knowledge base and paint a fascinating picture of the origin of human interaction based on anthropology, archaeology, neurology, linguistics and developmental psychology.

Mithens' hypothesis is that the origin of both human music and language can be found in an earlier holistic communication system which builds on the phenomena that still are common features of both: sound, rhythm and movement. A non-verbal communication system that was used by our forefathers from millions of years back until the Neanderthals died out about 28 thousand years ago.

Mithen is also the author behind the earlier historical big seller "After the Ice".

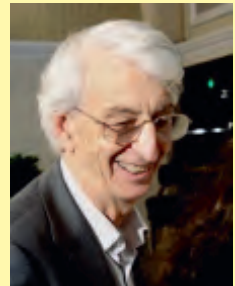


“Rhythm, Companionship and Meaning: Musicality and the Making of Language”

Colwyn Trevarthen, biologist, infant researcher, and professor emeritus in child psychology at The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, has investigated early communication and inter-personal relationships for thirty years.

His descriptions of communication have often a musical undertone so that his work has contributed towards building bridges, not least between music and developmental psychology. Colwyn Trevarthen has also carried out research in neuropsychology, on interaction between parents and children, on mental health and effects on this where there are dysfunctions such as autism and depression.

His latest work, written together with Stephen Malloch, "Communicating Musicality, exploring the basis of human companionship", is a comprehensive anthology of scientific papers about early communication, music therapy, attachment and inter-subjectivity with both psychotherapeutic and pedagogical implications.



“Music of the hemispheres: melody and prosody”

Jan Fagius, consultant in neurology at Akademiska Sjukhuset, Uppsala and senior lecturer at Uppsala Universitet, is the author of the book "Hemisfärernas musik" among others. It is a resume of the knowledge at the beginning of the 21st century about how the brain processes music.

Fagius' own research deals mostly with the sympathetic nervous system, the part of the nervous system that regulate the functions we don't control consciously – for example which gives us goose pimples when we become frightened or devoted, the latter is something that is common with strong musical experiences.

Musical experiences, like all interpersonal interaction and language handling, originates from brain activity and neurophysiologic reactions. So what is the same, what is not the same and what is common for communication, music and language at this level?



Information and delegate booking

Delegate booking and last day for booking

Booking is binding and must be made on the web page:
www.musikladan.nu/conference2010 or www.rettcenter.se.

Last day for booking is 22 October 2010.

Conference fee

The fee is 960 SEK excl. VAT (1200 SEK incl. VAT). Reduced fee for employees at Stockholms Universitet, KMH and Rett Center: 480 SEK excl. VAT (600 SEK incl. VAT).

Coffee, lunch and fruit is included. An invoice is sent out when the booking date has passed.

Information

Questions regarding the conference to:

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Information about registration:

Tina Happe eller Märith Blixth, Östersund Tourism Congress

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Organizers



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