

What is Post-Tonality?



POST-TONALITY

Post-Tonality is a term used to describe music that does not rely on, nor utilise, the traditional rules of Western tonality (e.g. Bach, Beethoven, Mozart) thus, creating a story of sound that is unbound by the set system of musical hierarchies.

(Not) The Sound of Music

Research Aim and Synopsis

AIM: to examine the effectiveness of post-tonal music as a pedagogical practice that may allow **all** music listeners to realise the potential of their listening skill set, thus allowing them to approach not only post-tonal music but any music that they consider to be 'other' with understanding and a suspension of cultural bias.

This research project consisted of three main phases.

1. A period of deep listening analysis into three separate case studies
2. An interactive public presentation event, held in The Boiler House, that gave a brief tour of post-tonal music and its benefits for the listener and performer
3. The analysis of qualitative data from the cross section of society who attended to gauge the effectiveness of the event.

Public Lecture and Qualitative Data Results

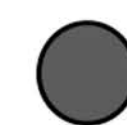


25th July 2019

Participants were from wide age groups, mixed gender and from different social backgrounds.

The event comprised of guided listening, live demonstrations on the piano and a group discussion.

Following the event, every member of the audience indicated on the below scale that they would either be more likely, or **much more likely, to explore music that they regard as 'other'.**



Much Less Likely Less Likely Nothing's Changed More Likely Much More Likely

"I'm finally beginning to understand how to listen to different forms of music ."

Talk Participant

Findings: Post-Tonal Education and the Future of Musical Learning

Music education in the National Curriculum concentrates on Western tonality, therefore, for the many, post-tonality is the 'other'. Through exposing the participants to deep listening methods and a system of analysis the 'other' moves from being "(Not) The Sound of Music" to a potentially new musical connection. One which may give future generations the ability to embrace musics that are culturally 'other'. This in turn may aid the deconstruction of musical conservatism and restrictive cultural boundaries.

The event itself gave participants a new awareness of their existing listening capabilities and showcased an accessible method of applying them to new musical experiences. The resulting qualitative data proves the effectiveness of exposure to such methods.

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