

Honors Physiology
This Is Your Brain On Music
Reading Assignment #3

→ Read *This Is Your Brain On Music*, **Chapter 4: Anticipation** – What We Expect from Liszt (and Ludacris). → Watch **World Science Festival: Notes and Neurons** (0:00-28:42, and 58:53-103:37) Link on the class website.

Answer the following questions after reading/ watching:

1. Provide an example of an “unexpected” experience in a piece of music (be sure to include the artist and song title). You may use one of Levitin’s examples from the chapter, or one of your own. How does the piece break the listener’s expectation? Why is this important?
2. On Page 125, Levitin states, “The best place to begin to look at expectation in the musical brain is in how we track chord sequences over time. [...] These predictions are the essential part of musical expectations. But how to study the brain basis of these?” What did Levitin and his colleagues discover in studying brain activity during making musical predictions?
3. After watching Bobby McFerrin “play” the audience, in *Notes and Neurons* (58:53-103:37) what conclusions can you make about a person’s innate ability to make musical predictions (i.e. what we expect in music)? Did this experiment surprise you? How was it broken down/ described after the experiment?