If Music Be The Food of Love...

*International perspectives on music and love, relationship and ‘resonance’.*

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**Abstract**

The human experience of both music and love are universal, and the connection between the two has been well-documented throughout history; in Literature, in Art and in Music itself. Some see music as ‘a communication system specialising in the expression of emotion’ (Mithen, 2007, p. 286) while some highlight music’s evolutionary value as a medium for facilitating trust and cooperation (Dunbar, 2012; Hallam, 2015). However we view music, its relational aspects - especially in Community Music (CM) settings - can be as significant as any musical outcomes (Bartleet, in press). In this symposium, we consider some of these relational aspects from a number of practical situations, including intercultural perspectives in working alongside Australian First Peoples (Bartleet, In press), Palestinian refugees, the German music education system and UK ‘natural voice’ (Camlin, 2015a, 2015b; “Natural Voice Practitioners’ Network,” n.d.) choirs. We will explore and discuss these situations through the lenses of a range of critical perspectives including Evolutionary Biology, Bioresonance (Bauer, 2008), Communicative Musicality (Malloch & Trevarthen, 2010), Musicking (Small, 1998) and Interpersonal Neurobiology (D. Siegel, 2011; D. J. Siegel,
2012), and consider how a critical understanding of CM situations might help contribute to a deeper understanding of these relational aspects of music.

The symposium is intended as a ‘live’ dialogue between the four presenters and the audience, as an opportunity to explore together the themes raised, and identify ways in which the dialogue may be deepened in future.

**Structure of symposium**

- Introduction (10 mins)
- Perspectives
  - Working alongside Australian First Peoples (Brydie-Leigh Bartleet)
  - Palestine / music as metaphor for relationship (Marion Haak-Schulenburg)
  - School / resonance (Claudia Cerachowitz)
  - Singing / Interpersonal neurobiology (Dave Camlin)
- Discussion (40 mins)
- Plenary (10 mins)

**References**


