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## WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY MEASURE AS MUSIC-INDUCED EMOTIONS?

The paper presents the results of a systematic review of 61 empirical studies in which emotions in response to music were measured. The analysis of each study was focused on the measurement of emotion components and the conceptualization of emotion both in hypothesis and discussion. The review does not support the claim that music evokes the same emotional reactions as life events do, especially modal emotions. Notably, neither a high intensity of feelings, nor intentionality were confirmed in relation to musical experiences, the emergence of specific action tendencies, or specific physiological changes. Based on the obtained results, it is recommended to use the terms “affect” or “music emotions” with reference to emotions experienced in reaction to music and to abandon the term “emotions” as misleading.

**Keywords:** emotions; affect; music emotions; emotional reactions to music.

### INTRODUCTION

In everyday language (Fehr & Russell, 1984; Johnson-Laird & Oatley, 1989; Shaver, Schwartz, Kirson, O’Connor, 1987) and in some psychological theories (for a short review, see e.g. Kowalska & Wróbel, 2017), emotion is associated with some basic categories such as happiness, sadness, fear, anger, guilt, or disgust. This approach is sometimes questioned (Barrett, 2006; Izard, 2007); however, when speaking about emotions, one must consider that scholars usually

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bring these modalities to mind. In our paper we investigate whether the term “emotion” is applicable to music-induced experiences. We analyze the conceptualization of emotion in music-induced emotion research, but above all we seek to determine if the methods used in such research and the data collected allow for confirming that the properties measured are distinctive of emotions.

Emotions are a heterogeneous group of feelings. Many scholars divide them into two main groups: primary and secondary (Damasio, 2005), basic and non-basic (Ekman, 1992, 1999; Shaver, Morgan, & Wu, 1996), basic emotions and emotion schemas (Izard, 2007, 2009), basic and complex (Johnson-Laird & Oatley, 1988), or utilitarian and aesthetic (Scherer, 2005).

The first group of emotions (e.g., primary or basic) are described as a set of relatively short and mainly intensive reactions to an event, be it real or existing only in the mind (Frijda, 1988; Goldsmith, 1994; Keltner & Gross, 1999; Watson & Clark, 1994), encompassing a specific experience (modality), cognitive and physiological changes, and motivation to undertake specific action (Davidson, 1994; Ekman, 1994; Frijda, 1988, 1994) important from the perspective of survival in the physical or social environment (Izard, 2009; Keltner & Gross, 1999; Keltner & Haidt, 2001). It is also often accompanied by characteristic forms of expression (Ekman, 1993; Matsumoto, Keltner, Shiota, Frank, & O’Sullivan, 2008; Watson & Clark, 1994). Many authors (Ekman, 1994; Frijda, 1994; Keltner & Gross, 1999; Russell, 2003) have emphasized that emotion is intentional, which means that there is a distinct object in the person’s perception towards which this experience is oriented (as in “fear of...” or “angry with...”).

It is more difficult to characterize the second group of feelings (e.g., complex, aesthetic). Combining various concepts, it can be stated that they are evoked by conscious and deliberate consideration of a situation or a person (Damasio, 2005) based on learned associations or links between feelings and perceptions, images, or thoughts (Izard, 2007); they do not concern fundamental life tasks (Ekman, 1999; Johnson-Laird & Oatley, 1988), but they are helpful in dealing with challenges within a given culture (Izard, 2007). In fact, this list of properties does not seem to be exhaustive, and it is easier to formulate a negative definition: they are emotions, but not basic ones.

### **AFFECTIVE REACTIONS IN MUSIC RESEARCH**

The review of music emotion studies performed by Eerola and Vuoskoski (2013) revealed that affective reactions to music are described by different emo-

tion models. Of the studies in which music-induced emotions were measured (see Gabrielsson, 2001, for the differentiation between emotions felt or induced by music and emotions perceived in music or expressed by music), most (47%) referred only to the dimensional models of emotions, while the discrete emotion model and the music-specific emotion model were used rarely (17% and 11%, respectively). The remaining studies (26%) relied on miscellaneous models of emotions.

In dimensional models every emotional response is described on a few dimensions. If there are two dimensions, they directly or indirectly correspond to the dimensions of affect, defined by Russell (2003) as “a neurophysiological state that is consciously accessible as a simple, nonreflective feeling that is an integral blend of hedonic (pleasure–displeasure) and arousal (sleepy–activated) values” (p. 147). Affect is the basis of emotions and mood (Russell, 2003), however, it must be remembered that affect dimensions are insufficient for comprehensive emotion description, because emotion is constituted by more elements than arousal and valence (Russell, 2003; Yik, Russell, & Steiger, 2011).

Discrete emotion models usually relate to basic emotions (see e.g., Barrett, 1998; Eerola & Vuoskoski, 2011; Izard, 2007) and postulate that all emotions are derivatives (but not a blend) of a limited number of universal innate emotions.

In the music-specific emotions model, the set of affective reactions is extended due to the empirically confirmed assumption that basic emotions are not adequate to describe a variety of feelings evoked by music (Zentner, Grandjean, & Scherer, 2008). The most popular list of reactions was proposed by Zentner et al. (2008) who aggregated feelings into nine groups: wonder, transcendence, tenderness, nostalgia, peacefulness, power, joyful activation, tension, sadness. Music-specific emotions seem to be non-basic or complex emotions.

Scherer (2004) describes specific music-induced feelings as aesthetic emotions and gives examples of this category: being moved, wonder, admiration, bliss, ecstasy, fascination, harmony, rapture, solemnity. Aesthetic emotions only partially overlap with the list of music-specific emotions proposed by Zentner and colleagues (2008), but their description seems to be helpful in the depiction of a wide spectrum of affective reactions induced by music. Somatic or behavioral elements of music-induced feelings are reactive, not proactive, so they do not prepare the person for a specific activity. Utilitarian emotions are triggered mainly by transactional appraisal (essential consequences for wellbeing), while aesthetic emotions result to a greater extent from intrinsic appraisal (properties of the stimulus). Admittedly, Scherer (2004) states that aesthetic emotions are not intensive, but qualitative analyses revealed very high levels of some of the mu-

sic-induced experiences, namely ecstasy (Bicknell, 2007; Gabrielsson & Wik, 2003; Gabrielsson, 2011), love, and being moved (Bicknell, 2007).

### AIM OF THE STUDY

Based on the published research on emotions in reaction to music, in our review we set out to verify (1) if the methods used in studies yield data confirming properties of emotional reactions distinctive of modal (discrete, basic) emotions, (2) which of the definitions—modal emotions, music emotions or affect—best fit the obtained data, and (3) whether the definitions of emotions referred to in the hypotheses and in the Discussion sections are compatible with the obtained data.

Although it has previously been indicated that emotional reactions to music are rather different from emotions (Scherer, 2004), we examine the methodological aspects of the reviewed studies more thoroughly. We want to determine what properties of emotional reactions are measured in music emotion research and how this is related to the conceptualization of emotions and emotional reactions. Therefore, in our review we are looking for further arguments in the debate on the nature of emotional response to music.

### METHOD

**Definitions.** In the review, we refer to three types of emotional reactions: (1) *modal emotion*—an episode of interrelated, synchronized changes of all or most organismic subsystems (motivational, cognitive, expressive, neurophysiological, and subjective feeling) in response to the evaluation of an external or internal event as being of major significance for personal goals or needs (Scherer, 2004), usually oriented towards an object (Ekman, 1994; Frijda, 1994; Keltner & Gross, 1999; Russell, 2003), encompassing specific rapid subjective modal feelings (modality) of fairly high intensity, specific action tendency, mimic changes and/or vocal expression, and neurophysiological changes (Scherer, 2004); the list of modal emotions comprises: pride, elation, joy, satisfaction, relief, hope, interest, surprise, sadness, fear, shame, guilt, envy, disgust, contempt, and anger (Sacharin et al., 2012; Scherer, Shuman, Fontaine, & Soriano, 2013); (2) *music emotion*—a feeling that has a modality different from any modal emotion; tentatively, the ensemble of music emotions contains feelings such as wonder, transcendence, peacefulness, power, being moved, awe, inspired, melanco-

lia, nostalgia, or tenderness (Coutinho & Scherer, 2017; Zentner et al., 2008); (3) *affect*—a neurophysiological state accessible to the consciousness as a simple, short-lasting, not object-focused, nonreflective (automatic) feeling that is an integral blend of hedonic and arousal values; affect may be described as pleasure/unpleasantness and low/high energy (Russel, 2003); illustrated graphically, the two dimensions of affect divide the space of emotional reactions into four affective quadrants, to which individual feelings can be assigned: pleasant high energy (e.g., elated), low energy level felt as a pleasant state (e.g., calm), negative high energy (e.g., jittery), and low energy felt as a negative state (gloomy; see Russell, 2003).

**Criteria for Paper Inclusion.** To verify whether the empirical data in music emotion research support the conclusion that affective reactions to music can be described in terms of modal emotions, we performed a systematic review. We searched for publications presenting empirical studies that focused on emotions induced by music, where authors claimed that their interest was in emotions rather than in other types of affective reactions. Therefore, the publications included in the review had to be available in English, include a description of empirical research, concern felt emotion in reaction to music, as well as include the word *music* in combination with *emotion*, *felt*, or *induced* in the title, abstract, or keywords. Papers were excluded if they explicitly focused on explored mood or affect induced by music or on emotion perceived in music. The search for relevant papers in peer-reviewed journals was conducted in PsycINFO and PsychARTICLES from inception to June 2018.

A total of 393 records were initially identified through database searching: 121 found with the phrase “music AND emotion AND felt” and 272 found with the phrase “music AND emotion AND induced.” After the screening process that included title and abstract reading, 61 publications met the above criteria and were therefore selected for further scrutiny.

**Criteria for Paper Review.** In the analyzed studies we sought tools used for emotion assessment or physiological reaction measurement. We were looking for information on what emotions in reaction to music were measured. If the tool contained an open-ended questions, we assumed that it could measure an unlimited number of modal emotions. In the case of self-assessment questionnaires with close-ended questions, we checked for the presence of modal emotion properties (behavioral tendency, reaction to personally important situation, intentionality, mimic changes), the number of emotions measured and their modalities (e.g., anger, fear; see: definition of modal emotion above), the presence of terms specific to musical emotions (e.g., nostalgia, tenderness; see: definition of music

emotion above), the presence of terms specific to affect (i.e., indication of valence and arousal). If the terms *joyful* (or *happy*), *sad* (or *sorrowful*), representative of both modal emotions and music emotions, were measured, we assumed that they were examples of music emotions if other music emotions were also studied. In other cases we presumed that *joyful* or *sad* described modal emotions.

In the next step, we reviewed research results to see if basic or music emotions were directly analyzed or reduced, for example, by factor analysis and to verify the results of the investigations. Additionally, in the analyzed papers we searched for the conceptualization of emotion in the hypotheses or in the Background and Discussion sections.

## RESULTS

The detailed analysis of the reviewed publications is presented in Table 1 (see Appendix). Of the 61 studies analyzed, 32 measured basic emotions modalities, 20 measured music emotions or aesthetic emotions, and 29 measured emotional dimensions characteristic of affect (the numbers do not add up to 61 because in some papers several emotional categories were studied).

### **Emotions Measured: Modalities and Intensity**

Terms relevant to modal emotions were used in 32 studies (52%). In four of them only happiness and sadness were measured. In three studies (Lundqvist, Carlsson, Hilmersson, & Juslin, 2009; Vuoskoski & Eerola, 2011; Vuoskoski, Thompson, McIlwain, & Eerola, 2012) musically induced affective reactions described as basic emotions were explored, but in each case their level was low. Kreutz, Ott, Teichmann, Osawa, and Vaitl (2008) induced anger and fear using music, although these responses were markedly weaker than happiness, sadness, and peace evoked by other sets of musical pieces.

Thompson, Geeves, and Olsen (2019) used a self-report scale measuring anger and fear along with a scale measuring affect and music emotions and an open-ended questionnaire assessing reactions to death metal music. The data confirmed the possible induction of anger and fear, especially in non-fans of metal music: 49 respondents (51%) reported anger, 20 (21%) reported fear, 13 (13%) reported disgust; the mean levels of these emotions were moderate or low. It must be noted, however, that Thompson and colleagues (2019) used songs

as emotion-inducing stimuli, and their lyrics might have influenced respondents' reactions. What is more, some subjects may have regarded the music excerpts as noise, as in the following response: "It sounds like messed up teenagers making throaty, irritating noises about how bad their lives are. It's annoying. My ears were attacked" (p. 227).

When terms belonging to three or four basic emotion categories were applied (six studies: Etzel, Johnsen, Dickerson, Tranel, & Adolphs, 2006; Johnsen, Tranel, Lutgendorf, & Adolphs, 2009; Naji, Firoozabadi, & Azadfallah, 2014; Song, Dixon, Pearce, & Halpern, 2016; Tabei, 2015; Wu & Sun, 2018), only emotions that differ on pleasure and arousal levels were used, e.g. happy, sad, and fearful (Johnsen et al., 2009) or happy, sad, angry, and relaxed (Song et al., 2016). In consequence, it can be concluded that the obtained data concern both emotions and affect.

Similarly, in 22 studies that explored more than four modal emotions, in many cases (e.g., Daly et al., 2014, 2015; Dibben, 2004; Egermann et al., 2011) researchers analyzed these emotions as belonging to two or four groups corresponding to the dimensions of affect. In the analyses they did not take into account the qualitative differences between measured emotions (i.e., when two modalities had comparable strength on affect dimensions but related to different reactions, as in fear and anger).

In a few studies, modal emotions such as anger, fear, or disgust were reported as having low or medium intensity while listening to music (e.g., Juslin, Harmat, & Eerola, 2014; Kopec, Hillier, & Frye, 2014; Kreutz et al., 2008) or as occurring very rarely (Juslin, Liljeström, Västfjäll, Barradas, & Silva, 2008; Zentner et al., 2008). Anger-irritation and anxiety-fear usually appeared in social settings (Juslin et al., 2008), when subjects listened to music in other people's presence.

Coutinho and Scherer (2017) obtained data which confirmed that musically induced experiences of *tense*, *uneasy*, and *nervous* were slightly different from those of *agitated*, *aggressive*, *angry* and *irritated*. It is not clear if this observation argues that music can awake modal emotions. The authors merged them into two groups: Fear and Anger, but they included neither *fear* nor *anger* in a new music-induced affect checklist, because *tense*, *uneasy*, *agitated*, and *aggressive* turned out to be more relevant.

Juslin, Barradas, and Eerola (2015) found no differences in the level of interest-expectancy and anger-irritation in reaction to various musical pieces. However, the level of anger-irritation differed from anxiety-nervousness in the study by Juslin and colleagues (2014).

It is worth mentioning that 35 studies explicitly analyzed feelings on the dimensions of affect (22 did not use terms referring to any modality), and in 20 reports music emotions were investigated.

### **Emotions Measured: Other Properties Characteristic of Modal Emotions**

Three studies explored behavioral tendencies among other features of emotions. Thompson and colleagues (2019) analyzed data from an open-ended questionnaire pertaining to heavy metal music. Fans of this genre reported an increased level of motivation to engage in a wide variety of actions, including physical, artistic, or domestic activities, meeting with friends, working, or learning. Non-fans were motivated to terminate the situation of music listening. In both groups, a few people mentioned a desire to engage in aggressive behavior. In general, respondents reported a desire to constrain listening to the disliked music or to go on listening to the preferred musical excerpts. They also reported willingness to engage in various forms of action, depending on the situational context, e.g. physical, artistic or domestic activities, meeting with friends, working, or learning.

In two studies (Labbé, Glowinski, & Grandjean, 2016; Labbé & Grandjean, 2014) some respondents reported willingness to dance or move.

In none of the reviewed studies was the intentionality of emotions or the significance of the emotion-inducing situation/stimulus explicitly investigated. One study involved a question about the practical consequences for goals or plans in life (Juslin et al., 2014), but these remained unrelated to emotional reactions to music.

Changes in mimic expression, especially the activity of the corrugator and zygomaticus, were measured in three studies; however, in two of them (Juslin et al., 2014, 2015) these changes were not analyzed as a manifestation of modal emotions. The study by Lundqvist and colleagues (2009) revealed differences in muscle activity, but these generally concerned feelings differing on pleasure or arousal dimensions.

In 26 studies neurophysiological changes were measured, mainly in EEG, skin conductance, heart rate, or respiration. In six studies researchers measured chills. In general data confirmed the occurrence of bodily changes while listening to music. However, if we consider only those studies in which more than four modal emotions were analyzed, then results become inconclusive. Juslin et al. (2015) controlled skin conductance, chills, as well as zygomaticus and corrugator



activity, but they analyzed them in the context of mechanisms arousing emotions (contagion, expectancy, memory, etc.) rather than emotional reactions per se. The situation was similar in the study by Juslin et al. (2014), who measured skin conductance, pulse rate, chills (in self-report), as well as zygomaticus and corrugator activity.

Some correlations between emotions and physiological reactions were found by Krumhansl (1997), who measured cardiac, vascular, electrodermal, and respiratory changes. For instance, anger co-occurred with higher skin conductance while fear correlated with respiration asynchrony, but Krumhansl mentioned that there was no congruence between results based on averaged data and those based on dynamic measurement.

Interesting outcomes were obtained by Vásquez-Rosati (2017). In her research, based on micro-phenomenological interviews, subjects described their reactions to music, for instance, as corporal sensations such as “lived body,” “stiff body,” or “pressure on body.” Nevertheless, her analyses did not reveal any patterns of physical components in modal emotional reactions to music.

Chills, as a physiological reaction, were investigated in six studies. Two of these (Juslin et al., 2014, 2015), were focused on psychological mechanisms underlying emotional response to music and did not describe emotions. Baltes found convergence between chills and sadness, tension (Balteş & Miu, 2014), wonder, and transcendence (Balteş, Avram, Miclea, & Miu, 2011). Egermann and colleagues (2011) as well as Salimpoor, Benovoy, Longo, Cooperstock and Zatorre (2009) studied chills only in the context of emotions reduced to the dimensions of affect.

### **Conceptualizations of Emotions**

In the majority of studies the conceptualization in the hypotheses referred to emotions, emotional reactions, or emotional experiences (32 studies, e.g. Kreutz et al., 2008; Song et al. 2016; Thompson et al., 2019). Out of these studies, investigating different emotion components, 11 involved neurophysiological measurement (e.g., Dibben, 2004; Gomez & Danuser, 2007; Krumhansl, 1997), two measured mimic expression (Lundqvist et al., 2009; Juslin et al., 2014), and 15 measured more than four emotion modalities (e.g., Juslin et al., 2008; Kreutz et al., 2008; Vuoskoski et al., 2012), although in five of them the modalities were analyzed in terms of affect dimensions (Daly et al., 2014; Dibben, 2004; Egermann et al., 2011; Vernooi, Orcalli, Fabbro, & Crescentini., 2016). Subjective feeling was the sole component of emotion measured in 21 of these studies

(e.g., Jaquet, Danuser, & Gomez, 2014; Larsen & Stastny, 2011; Song et al., 2016). In eight studies the subjective feeling measurement concerned aesthetic emotions (e.g., Kawakami, Furukawa, Katahira, & Okanoya, 2013; Krahe, Hahn, & Whitney, 2015), 15 studies included emotional measurement of valence (e.g., Egermann & McAdams, 2013; Kopec et al., 2014; Thompson et al., 2019), 13 studies involved the measurement of arousal (e.g., Egermann, Nagel, Altenmüller, & Kopiez, 2009; Schubert, 2007; Vuoskoski et al., 2012), and in five studies the dimension measured was tension or dominance (e.g. Schubert, 2007, 2010; Thompson et al., 2019). In the studies where hypotheses referred to emotions, no motivational or cognitive component indicators were measured.

A similar number of studies referred to emotion in the discussion section (35, e.g. Johnsen et al., 2009; Juslin et al., 2008), while only two-third of these (24) referred to emotion conceptualization in the hypotheses (e.g., Krumhansl, 1997; Larsen & Stastny, 2011; Lundqvist et al., 2009). Of the remaining 11 studies, three referred explicitly to dimensional models of emotions (Cheng, Wu, & Yen, 2009; Evans & Schubert, 2008; Salimpoor et al., 2009), four referred to music-induced emotions (e.g. Eerola, Vuoskoski, & Kautiainen 2016; Trost, Frühholz, Cochrane, Cojan, & Vuilleumier, 2015), two described the measured reactions as feelings (Coutinho & Scherer, 2017; Juslin et al., 2015), and two others described them as positive or negative emotion (Balteş & Miu, 2014; Labbé et al., 2016).

The conceptualization of music emotions or music-induced emotions in the hypotheses section appeared in 11 studies (e.g., Daly et al., 2015; Eerola et al., 2016; Labbé & Grandjean, 2014), and eight of them, apart from subjective feeling measurement, included a neurophysiological measurement (e.g., Miu & Balteş, 2012; Naji et al., 2014). In one study, the behavioral component was measured (Labbé & Grandjean, 2014). Interestingly, only four of these studies included the measurement of the aesthetic modality of emotions (e.g., Eerola et al., 2016); in two studies more than four modalities were measured, but in both they were reduced to the emotional dimensions of valence and arousal (Pesek, Strle, Kavčič, & Marolt, 2017) or valence, arousal, and dominance (Daly et al., 2015).

In 13 studies, authors referred to music emotion or music-induced emotion in the Results and Discussion sections (e.g., Miu & Balteş, 2012; Naji et al., 2014; Scherer, Trznadel, Fantini, & Coutinho, 2019), even though only in seven of them the aesthetic modality of emotions was measured (e.g., Choppin et al., 2016; Labbé & Grandjean, 2014; Miu & Balteş, 2012).

## DISCUSSION

Although in the majority of the reviewed papers the authors declared that they explored emotions, in none of the studies was the full set of emotional properties analyzed, and none of them confirmed the induction of a wide range of modal emotions.

Action tendencies were explored sporadically. The results did not reveal behavioral tendencies distinctive for particular emotions, analogous to emotions experienced in everyday life. Two studies confirmed willingness to dance or move in response to music, which may be an effect of rhythm rather than music. In one study respondents reported a desire to constrain listening to the disliked music or to go on listening to the preferred songs (Thompson et al., 2019), which resembles reactions characteristic of affect (see Kolańczyk, Fila-Jankowska, Pawłowska-Fusiara, & Sterczyński, 2004). Musically induced willingness to be active, observed in this research, seems to be rather a manifestation of a heightened level of energy.

Researchers investigated mimic expression only by measuring the activity of two muscles: corrugator and zygomaticus major, which in fact enables merely the assessment of positive/negative affect, not emotions (see Heller, Lapate, Mayer, & Davidson, 2014; Larsen, Norris, & Cacioppo, 2003; Tan et al., 2011; Topolinski & Strack, 2015).

Based on the analyzed papers, it is impossible to outline neurophysiological response patterns specific to individual musical emotions. It is significant that chills are mentioned as a physical reaction in the context of music, because chills are not described in the context of any modal emotion. Konečni (2008, 2011, 2013) includes them in a set of aesthetic reactions to music.

Neither the intentionality of emotions nor the importance of the emotion-inducing situation/stimulus were explicitly investigated in the reviewed studies.

Our review confirmed the dominance of the dimensional model in research on emotional reactions to music, which is in line with the review carried out by Eerola and Vuoskoski (2013). Moreover, if modal emotions such as anger, guilt, or fear were analyzed, their frequency was very low and their intensity was, at most, moderate.

The use of dimensions in experiments and self-report studies is very simple and intuitive. However, it is doubtful whether this method of measurement is sufficient for the analysis of emotional reactions to music (Bigand, Vieillard, Madurell, Marozeau, & Dacquet, 2005) and whether respondents prefer such tools for describing their experience (Chełkowska-Zacharewicz, 2018; Zentner

et al., 2008). The dimensional models do not allow for making a distinction between experiences from the same affective quadrant, e.g. melancholy and boredom (Scherer, 2004) or anger and fear, because feelings mapped onto the affective space are a highly simplified representation of emotion (Evans & Schubert, 2008) devoid of pivotal features (Briesemeister, Kuchinke, & Jacobs, 2011; Lindquist, Siegel, Quigley, & Barrett, 2013; Russell, 2003; Yik et al., 2011). In this context, a fundamental issue arises: How to interpret the situation when only two, three, or four modal emotion terms are used that belong to different affective quadrants and vary on the dimensions of affect? Do they refer to their modalities or are they only appellations pertaining to a high/low level of pleasantness and arousal? It is not possible to answer these questions unambiguously, but based on the above observations we rather support the thesis that modal emotions in such situations should be classified as affect, not as modal emotions. An additional argument is the fact that feelings induced by music and modal “everyday” emotions may have the same name but different properties, as in the case of sadness. Musically induced sadness may refer to positive experiences (Eerola et al., 2016; Vuoskoski & Eerola, 2017; Weth, Raab, & Carbon, 2015), although in everyday life it is usually felt as something unpleasant.

Inference about the properties of emotions evoked by music is additionally hampered by the fact that music is often not the exclusive stimulus modifying current experience. In some studies it is difficult to determine to what extent the emotions are a result of the music itself, and what is the contribution of non-musical factors such as social interactions (cf. Juslin et al., 2008) or song lyrics (cf. Thompson et al., 2019).

The above considerations do not support the thesis that music-induced emotional reactions are a short-lasting, intense, intentional, synchronized complex of organismic subsystems. However, the reviewed data do not deny this thesis either, and one cannot say that music definitely does not cause modal emotions. Future research might settle this issue, but only if certain methodological changes are introduced. In particular, it is necessary to expand the range of reactions measured concurrently: the quality, intensity, and duration of experiences must be verified as well as action tendencies, importance of the stimulus, and object orientation.

Our review is limited to papers analyzing emotions. To get a comprehensive and reliable picture of musically induced experiences, it is necessary to examine the conclusions derived from research focused explicitly on affect and mood.

## CONCLUSIONS

Some authors claim that music evokes the same emotional reactions as life events do, including basic ones. This suggestion implies that music may influence feelings, expressions, physiological reactions, and action tendencies, and that all these elements constitute a synchronized reaction that may be called a basic emotion. Such a perspective has been presented in a number of studies (Corrigall & Schellenberg, 2013; Gingras, Marin, Puig-Waldmüller, & Fitch, 2015; Hunter & Schellenberg, 2010; Jaquet et al., 2014; Krahé et al., 2015). Considering the analyses presented in the review, we conclude that the idea of music-evoked modal/basic emotions has not been thoroughly delineated.

There is no evidence to claim that music activates emotions in their full form, characteristic of modal emotions. Probably the majority of music-induced experiences are narrowed down to affect. Their core is a combination of a particular level of arousal with the experience of pleasure or, less often, unpleasantness. This conclusion also applies to the situation when only two, three, or four modal emotional terms describing experiences of different levels of arousal and pleasure are used, for instance *sad*, *anxious*, *happy*, and *calm*. The analyzed data do not confirm the presence of specific action tendencies or the high intensity of these feelings, which are not a response to any personally significant event. In sum, it is more rational to presume that in this case modal emotions terms are used as labels of affect.

On the other hand, the total removal of the modal emotion terms would probably make it impossible to capture the qualitative differences between some of the music-induced experiences. For this reason, instead of modal/basic emotions, it is advisable to use a set of music-emotions or aesthetic emotions as phenomena complementary to affect. Affect seems to be the most common experience, aroused even when the music is only the background of daily activities. It likely does not demand reflection; according to Juslin and Västfjäll (2008), affect may be aroused by brain stem reflex, evaluative conditioning, or emotional contagion. Cespedes-Guevara and Eerola (2018) argue that music per se induces nothing more than affect. However, if one is focused on the structure of music or the quality of performance, which can be frequent when listening to a concert or during the experimental procedure, then aesthetic (e.g., awe) or epistemic (wonder) feelings (see: Coutinho & Scherer, 2017) may appear due to musical expectancy or cognitive appraisal. The involvement of visual imagery or episodic memory (Juslin, & Västfjäll, 2008) could generate music emotions such as tenderness, transcendence, or melancholy. Therefore, when the emotional reaction

to music is in the center of our interest, we should explicitly relate to music or aesthetic emotions and measure the reaction accordingly, using dedicated domain-specific measurement tools.

The analyses presented above show the lack of discipline in the use of affective terms in the field of music psychology. An additional difficulty may be caused by the use of happy or sad feeling/emotion terms in reference to affect, emotion, and music emotion interchangeably, which is a rather natural consequence of linguistic deficiency. However, greater care in this domain could facilitate faster development of research in this field. In particular, we believe that, in research in which listeners focus on music, it is more appropriate to use categories/modalities of musical or aesthetic emotions. If music is only the background for other activities and is not in the center of the listener's attention, it seems more accurate to describe musically induced experiences as categories of affect. The list of music emotions and their full characteristics remains open.

The awareness of the distinction between modal emotion, affect, and music emotion might also be helpful for music composers, as well as for those who choose music for specific purposes, for example therapists or advertising specialists. The detailed information on the type of induced reaction and its components may allow for developing more precise means of influence in music-related domains.

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# Appendix

Table 1  
Analysis of Emotional Components in the Papers Included in the Review

Reference	Emotion													
	Components of emotion*					Other								
	Conceptualization of emotions (hypothesis)	Conceptualization of emotions (results, discussion)	Motivational Behavioral tendency	Expressive Changes in mimic expression	Neurophysiological changes	Synchronization of emotion subsystems	Intensity	Subjective feeling More than four modalities	Three or four modalities	Two modalities	Pleasure / Unpleasantness / valence	High / low energy / arousal	Tension and / or Dominance	Aesthetic modality
Baltes & Miu, 2014	negative / positive emotions	emotions		Changes in mimic expression	Neurophysiological changes chills		Intensity	More than four modalities						Music emotions
Baltes, Avram, Midea, & Miu, 2011	unpleasant / pleasant emotions	music-induced emotions			electrocardiography, skin conductance, respiration, blood pressure, chills						yes	yes		
Baltes, Midea, & Miu, 2012	emotional arousal and valence	emotional arousal and valence									yes	yes		
Cheng et al., 2009	emotional states / responses (pleasure and arousal)	emotions									yes	yes		
Choppin et al., 2016	complex emotional responses (subjective feelings)	music emotions												yes
Coutinho & Scherer, 2017	feelings	emotions						yes, but reduced	fear, surprise, anger		yes, after factor reduction	yes, after factor reduction		yes
Daly et al., 2014	emotions	emotions – three-dimensional model			EEG						yes, after factor reduction	yes, after factor reduction	yes, after factor reduction	

Emotion

Affect only  
Music emotions

Components of emotion\*

Reference	Conceptualization of emotions (hypothesis)	Conceptualization of emotions (results, discussion)	Motivational			Subjective feeling			Subjective feeling			Other		
			Behavioral tendency	Expressive changes in mimic expression	Neuro-physiological changes	Synchronization of emotion subsystems	Intensity	More than four modalities	Three or four modalities	Two modalities	Pleasure / Unpleasantness / valence		High / low energy / arousal	Tension and / or Dominance
Daly et al., 2015	music-induced emotional responses	Schirmack and Grob model of affective states (valence, energetic arousal, and tension arousal)		Changes in mimic expression	Neuro-physiological changes	EEG		yes, but reduced			yes, after factor reduction	yes, after factor reduction	yes, after factor reduction	
Dibben, 2004, Study 1	emotion felt	emotions			physiological arousal as an independent variable		low or medium	yes, but reduced			yes, after factor reduction	yes, after factor reduction	yes, but reduced	
Dibben, 2004, Study 2											yes	yes		
Eerola, Vuoskoski, & Kautala, 2016	music-induced sadness	emotions			emotional priming, skin conductance, heart rate variability									yes
Egermann & McAdams, 2013	felt emotions	emotions on emotion space									yes	yes		yes
Egermann et al., 2011	emotions (various models)	emotions			skin conductance, chills			yes, but reduced			yes, after factor reduction	yes, after factor reduction	yes, after factor reduction	yes
Egermann, Nagel, Altenmüller, & Kopiez, 2009	emotional experiences	feeling aspect of emotions									yes	yes		yes
Etzel, Johnsen, Dickerson, Tranel, & Adolphs, 2006	Mood / emotion				respiratory and cardiovascular activity									happiness, fear, sadness

Emotion

Affect only

Music emotions

Components of emotion\*

Reference	Conceptualization of emotions (hypothesis)	Conceptualization of emotions (results, discussion)	Motivational			Subjective feeling				Other			
			Behavioral tendency	Expressive Changes in mimic expression	Neuro-physiological changes	Synchronization of emotion subsystems	Intensity	More than four modalities	Three or four modalities	Two modalities	Pleasure / Unpleasantness / valence	High / low energy / arousal	Tension and / or Dominance
Evans & Schubert, 2008	felt emotions (dimensional model)	emotions								yes	yes	dominance	
Gingras et al., 2015	emotional arousal	Reactions to music			pupillary responses								
Gomez & Danuser, 2007	experienced emotions	emotions			respiration, skin conductance, heart rate					yes	yes		
Hunter, Schellenberg, & Schirrmack, 2008	feelings	feelings / emotional responses							happy, sad				
Jaquet, Danuser, & Gomez, 2014	felt emotions	emotional experience (in the title: 'felt emotions')								yes	yes		
Johnsen, Tranel, Lutjendolf, & Adolphs, 2009	emotional experiences	emotion			skin conductance				happy, sad, fearful				
Justin Barraud, & Eeroia, 2015	feelings	emotions			zygomaticus and corrugator activity, skin conductance, chills					yes, but no significant differences in the levels of interest-anger-irritation was revealed between various musical pieces			yes



Emotion

Affect only

Music emotions

Components of emotion\*

Reference	Conceptualization of emotions (hypothesis)	Conceptualization of emotions (results, discussion)	Motivational			Expressive			Neurophysiological			Subjective feeling			Other		
			Behavioral tendency	Changes in mimic expression	Changes in mimic expression	Neuro-physiological changes	Synchronization of emotion subsystems	Intensity	More than four modalities	Three or four modalities	Two modalities	Pleasure / Unpleasantness / valence	High / low energy / arousal	Tension and / or Dominance	Aesthetic modality		
Justin, Hermat, & Erola, 2014	emotions	Emotions / emotional reactions		yes	yes	skin conductance, pulse rate, EMG (corrugator and zygomaticus), chills (self-report)		low for anger / irritation, medium or low for anxiety / nervousness, high for sadness / melancholy		yes, but seldom reported anger-irritation and anxiety-fear, which usually appeared in "social" settings; shame/guilt, disgust, contempt—very rare						yes	
Justin, Liljeström, Västfäll, Barraza, & Silva, 2008	emotions	emotions															
Kawakami, Furukawa, Katahira, & Okanooya, 2013	felt emotions	emotions: tragic emotion, heightened emotion, romantic emotion, blithe; on two-dimensional affective space: pleasant—unpleasant, direct—vicarious															yes, 62 emotion-related descriptive words and phrases; reduced to factors: tragic, heightened, romantic, blithe
Kawakami, Furukawa, Katahira, Kamiyama, & Okanooya, 2013	felt emotions	music emotions													yes	yes	



Emotion

Affect only

Music emotions

Components of emotion\*

Reference	Conceptualization of emotions (hypothesis)	Conceptualization of emotions (results, discussion)	Motivational			Subjective feeling			Subjective feeling						
			Behavioral tendency	Expressive changes in mimic expression	Neuro-physiological changes	Synchronization of emotion subsystems	Intensity	More than four modalities	Three or four modalities	Two modalities	Pleasure / Unpleasantness / valence	High / low energy / arousal	Tension and / or Dominance	Aesthetic modality	
Ladning & Schellenberg, 2012	feelings of happiness and sadness	emotional responding to music		Changes in mimic expression	Neuro-physiological changes	Synchronization of emotion subsystems	low or medium		happiness, sadness						
Larsen & Sladny, 2011	emotions of happiness and sadness	emotions							happiness, sadness						
Lundqvist, Carlsson, Hilmersson, & Juslin, 2009	happiness, sadness, anger, fear surprise, disgust	emotions		yes, but differences found only between feelings differing on the pleasure or arousal dimensions	zygomatic muscle activity, corrugator muscle activity, heart rate, skin conductance, finger temperature		very low for anger, disgust, and fear	yes							
Marin, Gingras, & Bhattacharya, 2012	arousal and pleasantness	music emotions (music-evoked) = emotions elicited in other domains												yes	yes
Miu & Baltes, 2012	music-induced emotions	music-induced emotions			heart rate variability, skin conductance level, and respiration rate									yes	yes
Mori & Iwanaga, 2013	pleasant, unpleasant feelings	feelings												yes	
Naji, Firoozabadi, & Azadallah, 2014	music-induced emotions	music-induced emotions			after hearing the song: forehead biosignals (EMG) and electrocardiogram				soothing, engaging, annoying, boring						

Emotion

Affect only

Music emotions

Components of emotion\*

Reference	Conceptualization of emotions (hypothesis)	Conceptualization of emotions (results, discussion)	Motivational			Subjective feeling			Other					
			Behavioral tendency	Expressive Changes in mimic expression	Neuro-physiological changes	Synchronization of emotion subsystems	Intensity	More than four modalities	Three or four modalities	Two modalities	Pleasure / Unpleasantness / valence	High / low energy / arousal	Tension and / or Dominance	Aesthetic modality
Olsen & Stevens, 2013	arousal and valence (pleasantness)	emotional arousal and valence		Changes in mimic expression	Neuro-physiological changes					yes	yes			
Pesek, Sife, Kavcic, & Marot, 2017	emotions, musical emotions	emotions						Intensify	More than four modalities					
Salimpoor, Benovoy, Longo, Cooperstock, & Zatorre, 2009	emotional arousal and pleasure	emotions			heart rate, BVP amplitude, respiration rate, electrodermal activity or galvanic skin response (GSR), and body temperature chills				sad/happy	yes	yes			
Sammler et al., 2007	musically induced emotions (valence)	reactions to pleasant / unpleasant excerpts			HR changes, and EEG power in different frequency bands					yes	yes			
Scherer, Trznadel, Fantini, & Coutinho, 2018	emotion elicited / emotional responses	music emotions												yes
Schubert, 2007	emotions	emotions								yes	yes	dominance		
Schubert, 2010	emotions	emotions								yes	yes	dominance		

Emotion

Music emotions

Affect only

Components of emotion\*

Other

Reference	Conceptualization of emotions (hypothesis)	Conceptualization of emotions (results, discussion)	Motivational			Expressive			Neurophysiological			Subjective feeling			Subjective feeling		
			Behavioral tendency	Changes in mimic expression	Neuro-physiological changes	Synchronization of emotion subsystems	Intensity	More than four modalities	Three or four modalities	Two modalities	Pleasure / Unpleasantness / valence	High / low energy / arousal	Tension and / or Dominance	Aesthetic modality			
Schubert, 2013	emotions	positive, negative emotions (distinction between: emotion valence, affect valence)															
Song, Dixon, Pearce, & Halpern, 2016	emotional responses to music, using both categorical and dimensional models of emotion	emotions															
Tabell, 2015	emotion	emotion			functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)						happy, sad, angry, relaxed						
Thompson, Geaves, & Olsen, 2018	emotions	emotions			open questions about feelings and action tendencies									yes	yes	tension	yes
Trost et al., 2011	music-related emotions	music-induced emotions															
Trost, Frühholz, Cochrane, Cojan, & Vuilleumier, 2015	music-related emotions	emotional experience			magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)									yes	yes		yes
Vásquez-Rosati, 2017	emotional experience	mainly: sensations and feelings			corporeal sensations	probably											yes - open-ended question; examples: fear, sadness, expectation



		Emotion		Affect only		Music emotions					
		Components of emotion*									
Reference	Conceptualization of emotions (hypothesis)	Motivational		Subjective feeling		Other					
		Expressive	Neurophysiological	More than four modalities	Three or four modalities	Two modalities	Pleasure / Unpleasantness / valence	High / low energy / arousal	Tension and / or Dominance	Aesthetic modality	
Zentgraf, Grandjean, & Scherer, 2008.	feelings (subjective experience)	Behavioral tendency	Neuro-physiological changes	Synchronization of emotion subsystems	Intensity						
Study 2	music emotions	Changes in mimic expression					open-ended question; guilt, shame, jealousy, disgust, contempt, embarrassment, anger, fear, and other negative emotions were practically never aroused by music				
Study 3							66 emotion terms; angry, anxious, proud, and annoyed were very rarely activated by music				
Study 4							interest, joy, surprise, sadness, anger, disgust, contempt, fear, shame, and guilt	yes	yes	yes	yes

\*The cognitive component—that is, reactions to personally important situations—and intentionality were not included in the table, as none of the analyzed studies measured these aspects of emotion.