

## What makes us musical animals?

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### ABSTRACT

Even those of us who can't play a musical instrument or lack a sense of rhythm can perceive and enjoy music. Research shows that all humans possess the trait of musicality. We are a musical species—but are we the only musical species? Is our musical predisposition unique, like our linguistic ability? In his presentation, Henkjan Honing embarks upon a quest to discover if humans share the trait of musicality with other animals, like Charles Darwin supposed. Honing's investigation bridges the gap between neuroscience and behavioural biology.

Henkjan Honing is a professor of Music Cognition at both the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Science of the University of Amsterdam (UvA). He studies what musicality is or can be and to what extent human beings share musicality with other animals. His aim is to define the cognitive and biological mechanisms that underpin musicality. In addition to a research agenda (*The Origins of Musicality*, 2018, MIT Press), Honing has published several books for the general public, including the English-language publications *Musical Cognition* and *The Evolving Animal Orchestra*. Honing's books and lectures are popular with a broad audience and are appreciated both inside and outside the scientific world.

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