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SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS OF MUSIC: PREFACE

This volume collects a sample of (revised and refereed) contributions to the 15th International Symposium of Cognition, Logic and Communication, devoted to 'Syntax and semantics of music and dance: Formal and experimental approaches' (Riga, November 26-27, 2021).

While less studied than linguistics, music cognition followed a somewhat similar path after the "cognitive revolution", as it combined introspective judgments on sophisticated data, highly explicit formal models, and experimental methods. Formal linguistics was in some ways the continuation of grammar with scientific means, and similarly formal approaches to music cognition (notably in Lerdahl & Jackendoff's pioneering work in the early 1980's) built on insights of musicology, but within a far more sophisticated formal and theoretical framework. The field is now predominantly experimental, but research based on formal models continues to be active.

The papers that appear in this volume contribute to two topics of great contemporary relevance in music cognition: the development of

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formal approaches to musical meaning; and the investigation of musical traditions that go beyond the narrow confines of Western tonal music.

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References

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