

The Universality of Music, and Diversity in Music

After teaching the Physics of Music/Musical Instruments course(s) here at UIUC for more than a decade, one of the most fascinating, deep questions, or (collection) of things that I like to think about/contemplate is “why music is so important” to us as human beings – music runs *very* deep in *all* humans (at least “normal” humans) – so much so, sometimes I seriously wonder if our enjoyment (need?) for music is literally *genetically* programmed into (all of) us...

Let’s give a brief perspective on the timescales of what we’re about to discuss:

- From various astrophysical measurements – *e.g.* the cosmic microwave background – a remnant of the **Big Bang**, and measurements of the so-called **Hubble constant** – the rate of **expansion** of the universe – the age of the universe is ~ 13.7 **billion** years old.

