Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am conducting research on the musical interests and capacities of adolescents. I am writing to request permission for your child to participate in this study.

The study aims to look at musical knowledge and ability in those aged 13 to 18 years. These sessions will look at the ability to recognize short clips of popular music, singing abilities, musical interests and background, and hearing. There is a lack of knowledge about these skills in teenagers and this project looks at how these skills may differ from age 13 to age 18. We are aiming to have 105 participants (35 aged 13-14, 35 aged 15-16, and 35 aged 17-18 years). The study welcomes all children between the ages of 13 to 18 years of age. The project is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

This **study will take place online and should be completed in a place where your child has access to a computer in a quiet environment; this can be at home (if there is a computer in the home), at school, or elsewhere (e.g., a public library)**. Along with a computer, the participant will use headphones and a microphone. If your child does not have headphones, the headphones can be accessed by contacting [airs@upei.ca](mailto:airs@upei.ca). Similarly, if your child does not have access to a laptop or desktop in a quiet space, a computer and quiet space can be provided for you in the lab at UPEI. You do not need a separate microphone; most computers and laptops have built-in microphones that allow you to speak to others using your computer (as you may have experienced with Zoom, Teams, or Google Classroom).

There are three parts or sessions of the study.

**Session 1**. Participants will listen to two short clips of 36 songs popular in North America from 1962 to 2021. For each song, participants will be asked how familiar they are with the song. They will also be asked a few questions about their knowledge, experience and memory of the song. This will be followed by some questions about themselves (e.g., their birthday, how long they have lived in Canada), music listening habits, how familiar they are with popular music, and factors that impact their music listening. This session will take 45 to 55 minutes including the introduction and the final debriefing (a short document to explain more about the study).

**Session 2**. The session can be completed any time in the week following the first session. The session begins by asking the participant to read out loud four short sentences. Then the participant will be presented with short audio clips of musical notes and will be asked to sing back what they’ve just heard. This task will begin by presenting single notes, then sequences of 2 to 6 notes in length, then one simple longer song. The participant will also be asked to sing the “Happy Birthday” song several times during the session (15 minutes). Afterwards, participants will be asked to complete a multiple-choice or short-answer questionnaire about musical experiences (e.g., do you play a musical instrument? How many hours of music do you listen to in a week?) (10 minutes). Your child will be asked to complete some questions about music that they may have learned about in school or outside of school, a few more indiviual questions such as their date of birth and some more questions about memory for popular music (15 minutes). This session will take about 50 minutes to complete.

**Session** 3. This is a “mini-session” that will take about 10 minutes; it will take place in the week following the second session. For this test, a research assistant will show your child the website where the hearing test can be found. They will also provide some guidance about how to set up and complete the test. These instructions can be provided in-person at the UPEI Music lab or online via the Zoom platform. The test presents soft sounds and asks the listener to indicate when they can hear the sound.

These tasks will be explained in a way that your child can understand. Your child will only participate if they are willing to do so. Participation is voluntary. Even if you allow your child to participate, your child is free to refuse. If your child decides at any point during the study to end their participation, they may do so without penalty. To end participation, one must simply tell the researcher (by sending an email to [airs@upei.ca](mailto:airs@upei.ca), phoning the lab at 902-566-6023, or phoning me at 902-628-4325) that they no longer wish to participate. All data from this study is subject to the terms of consented disclosure and is regarded as confidential. The data from the first session is stored on the Qualtrics platform, whose computer servers are located in the United States. Therefore, this data can be accessed by the US government. It is extremely unlikely that this study or its participants will be of interest to the US government, but we are required to mention this possibility. You and your child are not giving up any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your child’s participation in this study.

**Compensation.** The compensation for participation will be provided as follows: For participating in session 1, your child will receive a Cineplex movie pass (worth $7.99 for 13 year olds, and $10.99 for those 14 years of age and above) sent electronically. One further movie pass will be provided for participating in Session 2. For participation in Session 3, the hearing test, your child will receive a voucher for one popcorn ($5.50 value). Thus, the total possible value of compensation is $21.48 (13 year olds) and $27.48 (age 14 and above). If during the study your child decides to withdraw, they will still receive the compensation for participation in that session, even though the session was not completed.

**Preserving confidentiality.** As mentioned, the information you provide will be private and anonymized; your child’s name will not appear anywhere in the data file or research reports. You or you and/or your child will make up a codename (letter-number code) that will be used to keep track of their data. No personal names or identifying information will be placed with the data being analyzed, to ensure the records are confidential.

Your child is free to answer only questions they are comfortable with. They do not need to complete the study if they wish to stop at any point during the testing process.

If you have any questions or concerns about this research study, please contact me, Dr. Annabel Cohen, at [acohen@upei.ca](mailto:acohen@upei.ca) (phone) 902-628-4325. I declare there is no conflict of interest. The study contributes to my research program supported by the national granting agency, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

This project has been reviewed by the UPEI Research Ethics Board. It complies with Tri-Council guidelines for research with human participants. Any ethical concerns about your or your child’s involvement in this project may be directed to the UPEI Research Ethics Board (902) 620-5104, email: [researchcompliance@upei.ca](mailto:researchcompliance@upei.ca).

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your thought about allowing your child to participate in this study. If you agree to your child’s participation, please indicate this on the parent/guardian consent form and (return this signed form to your child’s teacher/send this signed form to the Music Cognition lab at [airs@upei.ca](mailto:airs@upei.ca)). Note to reviewer – if the form is completed electronically it will go directly to the Qualtrics data base, and this line will not be necessary.

Sincerely,

Annabel J. Cohen

Professor of Psychology

University of Prince Edward Island

Charlottetown, PE C1A 3Z6

902-628-4325

[acohen@upei.ca](mailto:acohen@upei.ca)

Parental/ guardian consent form

**Consent Form**

**Title of Study: Learning and Memory for Popular Music, Imitation of Brief Melodies, and Hearing in Adolescents**

I have read and understood the content in the information letter about testing knowledge of popular music (Session 1), vocal abilities (Session 2) and hearing (Session 3). I understand that my child has been invited to participate in this study. If I or my child wishes, I am allowed to be with my child when they are participating

**For Session 1:**

I understand for my child’s participation that they will:

1. Listen and respond to audio clips from popular songs (40 minutes).

2. Complete a short survey about personal background and music listening (5 to 10 minutes).

The total time for this session may take about  **45 to** **50 minutes,** including time spent introducing the study and explaining it afterwards.

**For Session 2:**

I understand for my child’s participation that they will:

1. Read four sentences out loud (2 minutes).

2. Listen to some tones and short melodies (typically shorter than 6 notes) and will be asked to imitate (sing back) the tones or melodies (20 minutes).

3. Complete a questionnaire with items regarding their music knowledge, and several personal questions (10 minutes).

4. Listen to some pop-style music clips and answer some questions about them (10 minutes).

The total time for participation will be around **45 minutes** including time spent introducing the study and explaining it afterwards.

**For session 3:**

I understand for my child’s participation that they will:

1. Set their headphones and computer volume to a quiet level (2 minutes)

2. Complete a hearing test listening to soft sounds (6 minutes)

3. Save a copy of their audiogram [picture of their hearing scores for different sounds ] (2 minutes)

The total time for participation should be about **10 minutes** including time spent introducing the study and explaining it afterwards.

This session will take place with a “zoom” Internet connection with an experimenter, who will provide instruction to my child for the three steps above.

I understand

1. My child’s participation is voluntary.

[] I agree.

[] I disagree.

2. My child may decide to leave the study at any point with no penalty or judgement from the researcher. Having completed the study, my child may withdraw their data up until 48 hours after having participated in the study.

[] Yes, I understand.

[] No, I do not understand.

3. My child’s responses will be kept confidential and anonymized, except where the researcher is required by law to report them.

[] Yes, I understand.

[] No, I do not understand.

4. Once all data have been submitted and identifiers removed (no sooner than 48 hours after my child’s participation), I will no longer be able to ask that my child’s data be removed from the study.

[] Yes, I understand.

[] No, I do not understand.

5. My child has the freedom not to answer any question in the study.

[] Yes, I understand.

[] No, I do not understand.

6. I may keep the information and consent letter and contact any person listed on it if any questions or concerns arise.

[] Yes, I understand.

[] No, I do not understand.

7. There are no particular benefits or risks to my child arising from their participation, although my child may enjoy the challenge of identifying music from short clips or singing the short melodies.

[] Yes, I understand.

[] No, I do not understand.

8. My child will receive one movie pass for participation in Session 1 and one movie pass for participation in Session 2 and a voucher for popcorn for participation in Session 3. I understand and accept these conditions.

[] Yes, I understand and accept these conditions.

[] No, I do not understand or accept these conditions.

9. I understand that access to the results of the study will be provided by April 30, 2024, and a summary will be sent to me and my child if I express interest in receiving this.

[] Yes, I understand.

[] No, I do not understand.

10. I understand that the information will be kept confidential within the limits of the law.

[] Yes, I understand.

[] No, I do not understand.

11. I understand that I can keep a copy of this signed and dated consent form.

This research is being conducted by Dr. Annabel Cohen (Principal Investigator and Professor of Psychology, acohen@upei.ca, 902-628-4325). Questions and concerns can also be directed to the Chair of the Psychology Department, Dr. Nia Phillips, at nlphillips@upei.ca or 902-566-0966.

Should I have any concerns about the ethical conduct of this study, I may contact the UPEI Research Ethics Board at 902-620-5104, or at researcherportal@upei.ca.

[] Yes, I understand.

[] No, I do not understand.

**STATEMENT BY PERSON AGREEING TO LET THEIR CHILD PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY:**

I understand and accept items 1 to 11 above:

[] Yes, I consent.

[] No, I do not consent.

If you consent to your child’s participation in this project, they will be provided with their own information letter and assent form via the email you provide. These forms will contain similar information about the study in wording that your child can understand. The assent form is similar to this form and will give your child the option to decide not to take part in this study.

Please check one of the following:

[] Yes, I allow my child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [**child’s first and last name**] to participate in this study.

[] No, I do not allow my child to participate in this study.

If you allow your child to participate, please provide your name, signature, email address, and your child’s email address (if they have one).

**Your Name** (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Your Signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (if not email)

**Your email address** (if you have one) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Your child’s email address** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not allow your child to participate, we would still like you to return the form. This is so that we can know how well our study represents children as a whole.

In session 2, your child would be asked to read 4 phrases, and sing back short melodies. To analyze this data, the audio will need to be recorded. Would you be willing to let your child’s speaking and singing be recorded:

[] Yes, I consent to the audio recording of my child’s speaking and singing in Session 2.

[] No, I do not consent to the audio recording of my child’s speaking and singing in Session 2.

In the rare case that the researcher may wish to quote one of your child’s answers word for word, would you be willing to give permission for quotation:

[] Yes, I consent to allow my child’s answers to be quoted word for word without being contacted further.

[] Yes, I consent to allow my child’s answers to be quoted word for word. However, I would like to review the quote before it is used in a report.  
  
Please provide a contact method:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[] No, I do not give consent to the researcher to quote my child’s answers .

The data from this study may be of interest to other researchers who may conduct a similar study elsewhere or at a different time. Would you give approval that your child’s data be included in the data set that would be made available to researchers in the future? There is no way that your child’s identity could be linked to the data, as the data file is stored apart from the consent form, which is the only document to contain your personal contact information.

[] Yes, I will allow my child’s anonymized data to be shared.

[] No, I will not allow my child’s anonymized data to be shared.

Are you interested in receiving a copy of the study report once it has been completed by the researchers?

[] Yes, I would like a copy of the study report.  
  
Please provide an appropriate contact method, e.g., e-mail address:[]

[] No, I do not want a copy of the study report.

**Having agreed to let your child participate in this study, it is necessary to create a code name to replace your child’s real name. This is so that your child’s results can be kept confidential.**

In order to create this code name, please confirm if your child is a twin and if consent is given for both twins to participate.

[] No, my child is not a twin.

[] Yes, my child is a twin.

[] Consent is given for both twins to participate.

**\*\*\***

You or you and your child will create an 8-character sequence of numbers and letters as your child’s code name for this study. It will be based on the **first three letters of the name of a parent or relative or guardian**,

**the day of the month of the child’s birthday**, and

**the first three letters of the street the child grew up on.**

(For example: **joh11que**  would be the code from a selected parent/relative/guardian named John, child’s birthday on the 11th day of the month, and growing up on Queen Street)

My child’s code name is \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

(3 letters, 2 numbers, 3 letters)

**\*\*\***

I am willing for my child to be contacted to participate in a future study with the option of declining at that time:

[] Yes, I consent.

[] No, I do not consent.

Note: This consent form is the only document on which your child’s or your identifying information will appear. Your child’s responses from the three sessions will be identified by their code name only, and this will later be replaced for data analysis purposes with a simple code created by the experimenter (e.g., N1, N2, …. N50).

**Your signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  (if not email)

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of Principal Investigator** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(if not email)

**Principal Investigator Annabel Cohen  Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please press the "Next" button below and it will send to your email  address a copy of  this consent form and will send to your child’s email address the link to the information letter and assent form and the questionnaire for Session 1 of this study.**

**The sender is noreply@qemailserver with the "subject header" Musacq3 Consent Form.   (Your child will receive the link to Session 2 following completion of Session 1).**

**You and your child can check your emails now.  Whenever your child is ready to begin Session 1, they should open the link received in their email.**

**Thank you for your co-operation.**