

Kinesics analysis in the investigation of the emotion expression in music performance

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This paper discusses body language within musical performance and contributes to a theory of gesture as a practice within musical performance. Based on a point-light technique approach, empirical evidence has shown that the abstract movement of the point lights (resulting from the video recording of a series of facial movements while experienced singers expressed different emotions in singing performance) had sufficient dynamic information to be recognized by an audience according to the emotional intention performed by the singer. It seems, then, that performers, conscious or unconsciously, use physical gestures associated with emotional states and other expressive issues as a basis for shaping musical expression. Ultimately, it is possible to consider that bodily movements may function as indicators of expressive intentions of the performer and, when linked to important music structures, may also be seen as giving musical expression to emotional states presented through the music.

Keywords: music; emotion; performance; gesture; kinesics

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