

The Emotional Implications of Acoustic Nuance in Preludes by Bach and Chopin



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Background

Research on How Music's Cues Convey Emotion



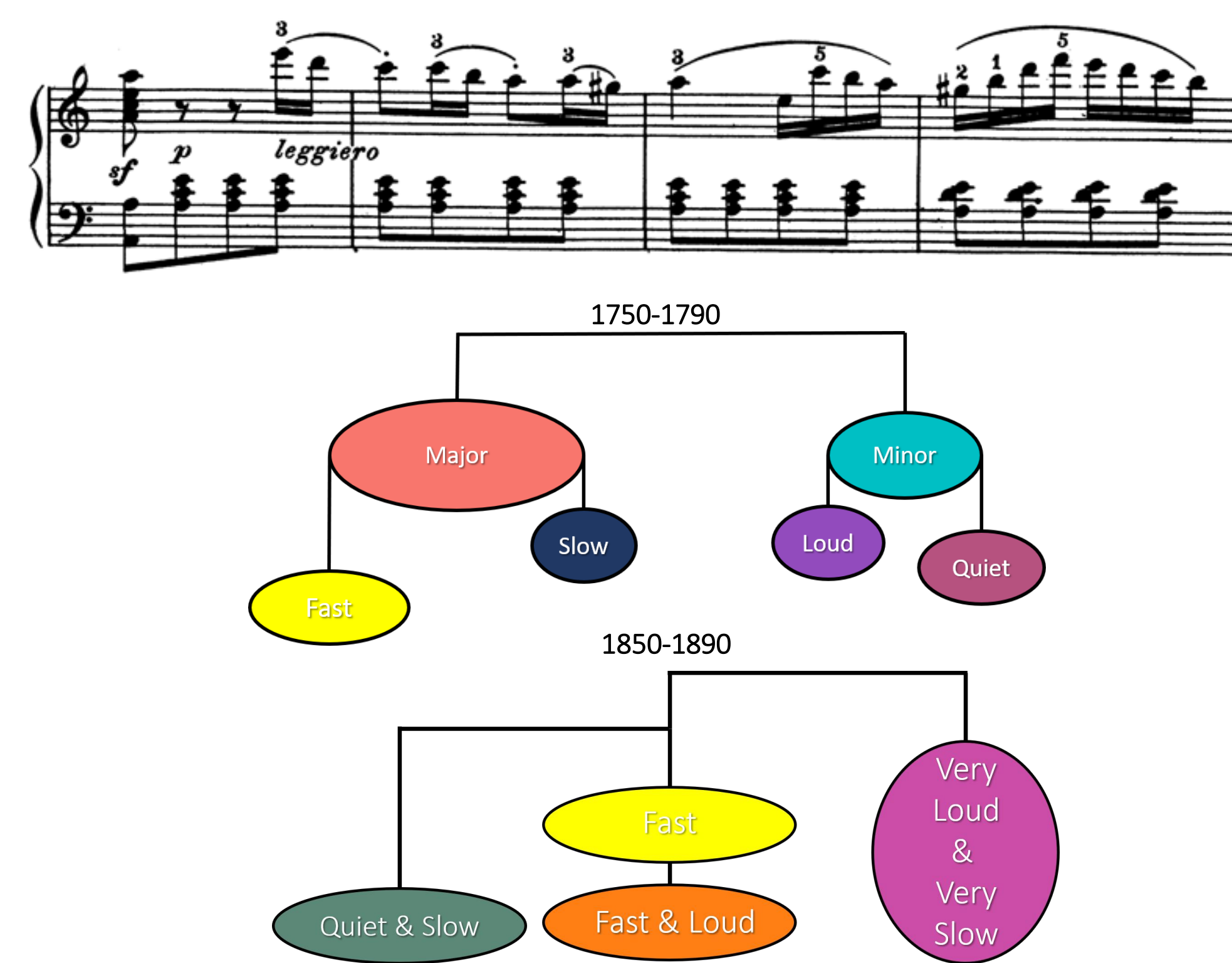
(Gagnon & Peretz, 2003)



(Hunter et al., 2010)

Find broad emotional effects of musical cues

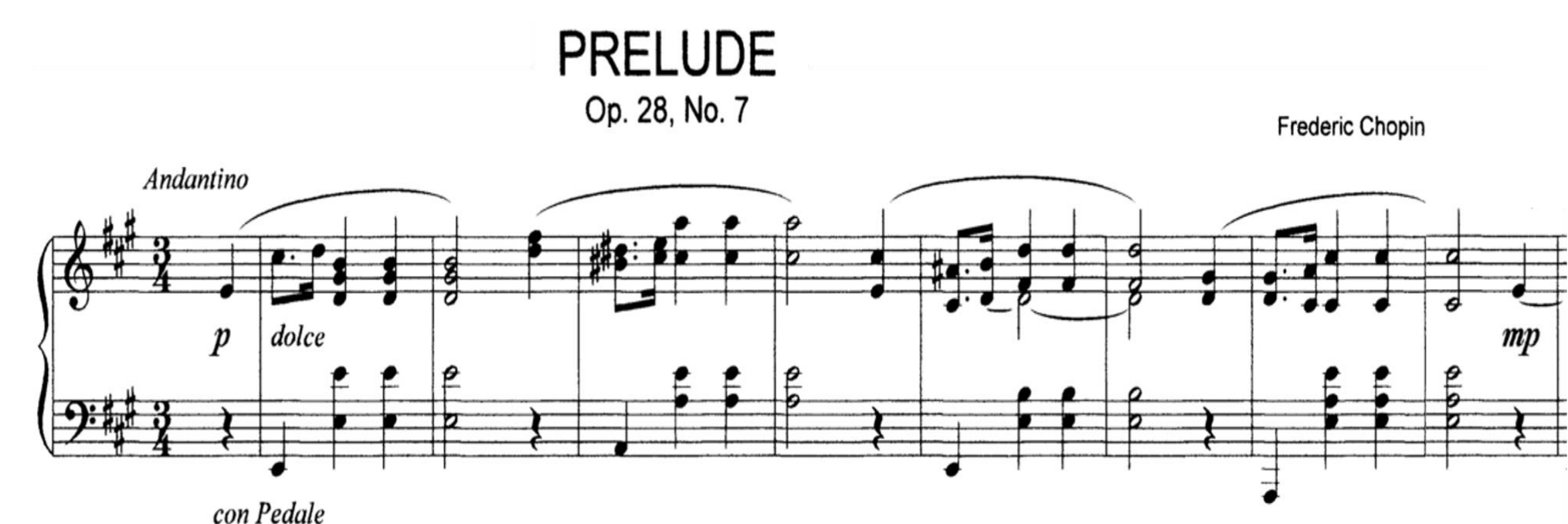
Research Studying Cue Use Across Music History



(Horn & Huron, 2015)

Find changes in cues' relationships across musical eras

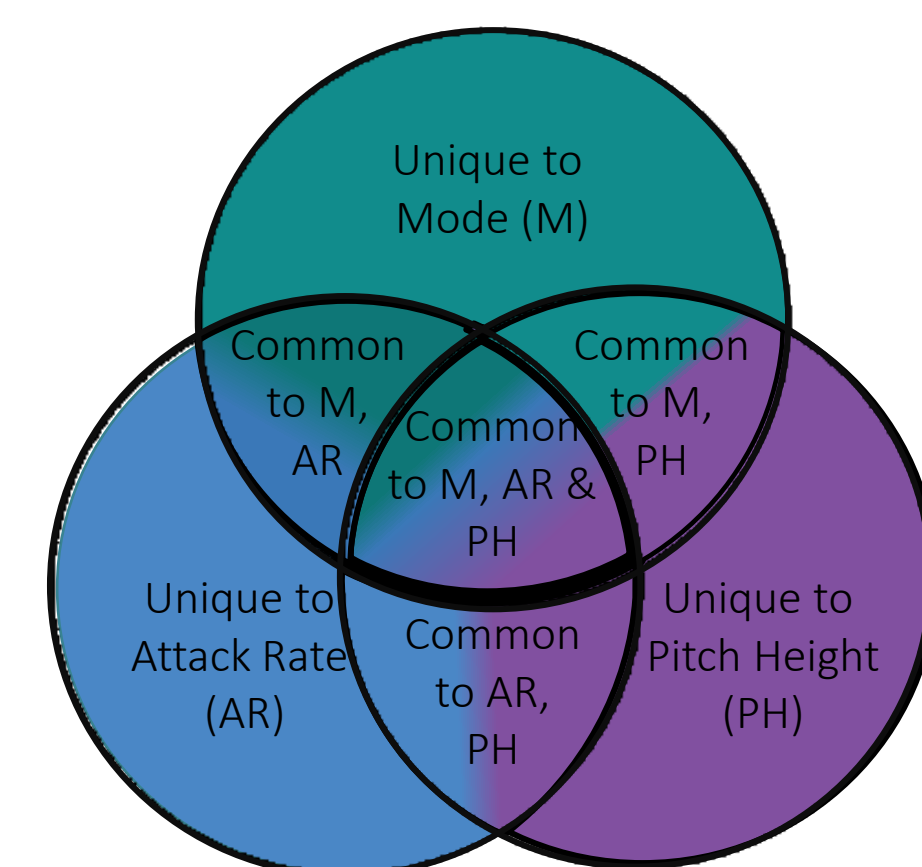
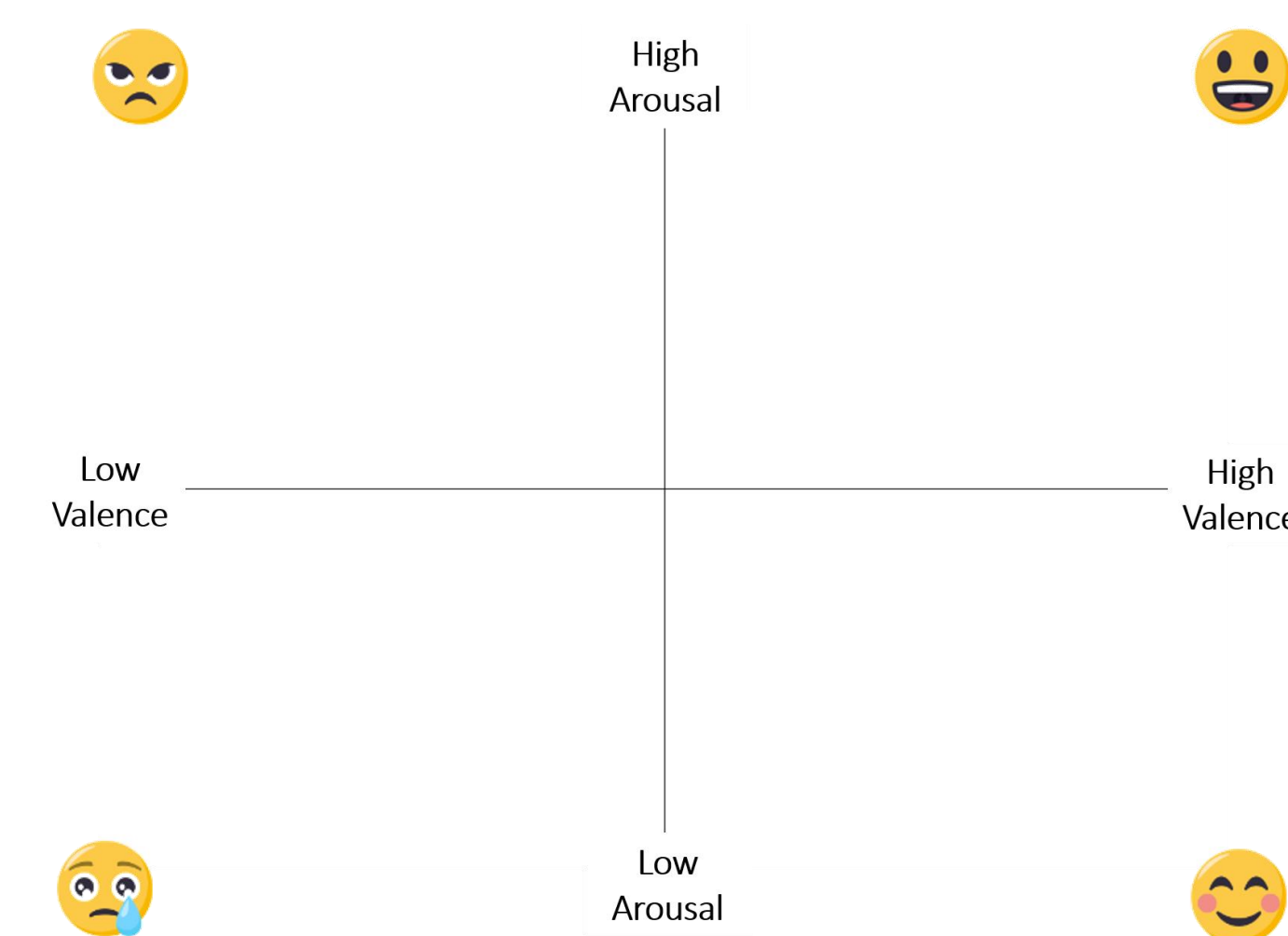
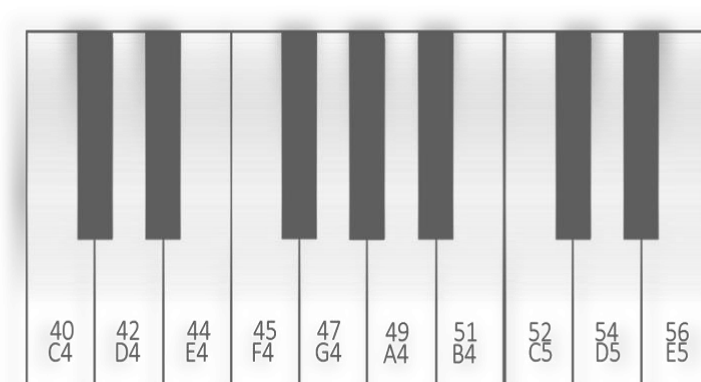
Methods



Attack Rate

Mode

Pitch



Acknowledgments



Summary

- Recent musicological research indicates a historic shift in mode's relationship with other cues. It remains unclear how these findings relate to those of psychological studies using tightly controlled musical stimuli to investigate cues' emotional effects.
- Here we attempt to bridge this methodological gap by examining how differences in Bach and Chopin's cue use affect participants' emotion ratings.
- We find acoustic differences in each composer's music predict nuanced differences in participants' emotional responses. These findings suggest composer differences play an important role in shaping cue effects on music's perceived emotion.

Selected References

- Battcock, A. & Schutz, M. (2019). Acoustically Expressing Affect. *Music Perception*, 17, 66-91.
Horn, K., & Huron, D. (2015). On the changing use of the major and minor modes 1750–1900. *Music Theory Online*, 21(1), 11.