

BEETHOVEN AND YOUR BRAIN

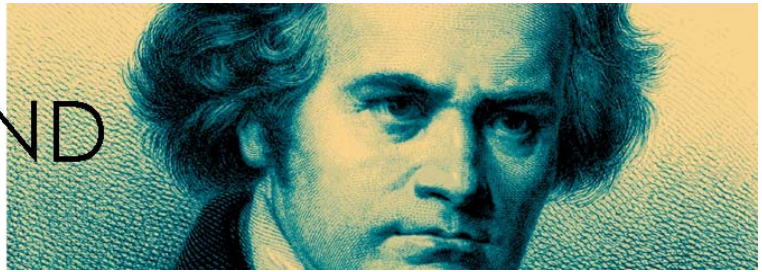


Photo © Dan Falk, NewScientist

• A first-of-its-kind partnership between an orchestra, conductor and neuroscientist, *Beethoven and Your Brain* is “part concert, part lecture, but mostly a cool interactive cognition experiment.” (*The National Post*)

• *Beethoven and Your Brain* was conceived by Edwin Outwater, envelope-pushing Music Director of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and was co-created with Daniel Levitin, best-selling author of *This Is Your Brain on Music* and *The World in Six Songs*.

• Thanks to live-polling technology that measures individual reactions to the music performed live, the audience sees how Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony communicates with human beings on a biological level. The astounding results are broadcast on-screen, with Outwater and Levitin on hand to interpret the results.

• *Beethoven and Your Brain* premiered in October 2010 with sold out houses at Toronto’s Koerner Hall and Kitchener’s Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts, and garnered critical and audience acclaim:

“The Royal Conservatory was thrilled to present the world premiere of *Beethoven and Your Brain*. The sold out concert was an instant hit with our audience - with many of them writing and tweeting to ask for more. Maestro Outwater and Dr. Levitin put together a compelling evening of music and neuroscience that spoke with equal force to the classical music connoisseur and the neophyte. Bravo!”

– Mervon Mehta, Executive Director, Performing Arts at Koerner Hall

“The audience ate it up.”

– *Montreal Gazette*

“With license from the maestro to act as they please, the audience responded first with a pair of isolated whoops and hollers, then collected into a community outburst of spontaneous clapping, stomping, yelping and whoop-pah!”

– *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*

“The audience seemed to relish every moment of the performance, which was part concert, part science lecture, and part ‘interactive Beethoven love-in...’”

– *New Scientist*

- Daniel Levitin is a Professor of Psychology, Music, and Computer Science at McGill University. An expert in music and the brain, he has published over 100 scientific articles. Dr. Levitin is also one of the best-selling scientist authors in the world with *This Is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession* and his latest book, *The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature*. Prior to entering academia, Levitin was a record producer and engineer with artists such as Blue Oyster Cult, Chris Isaak, and Stevie Wonder. He plays bass and contrabass clarinets, tenor saxophone, guitar, and electric bass.



- One of North America’s most creative, dynamic, and engaging conductors, Edwin Outwater is Music Director of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony in Ontario, Canada. With a goal of reinventing the orchestral experience, Outwater has collaborated with artists from composers Mason Bates, Gabriela Lena Frank, Nicole Lizeé and Nico Muhly, to authors Daniel Handler and Daniel Levitin and rock musicians Dan Deacon and Richard Reed Parry.

