
Preface

In 1977, a two-day symposium was held at the Medical Society of London and was published as *Music and the Brain*, edited by Drs Macdonald Critchley and Ronald Henson.¹ As an avid attendee of the meeting and reader of its proceedings, I have to report that there has been no further volumes on this subject from that society. And yet the subject has engaged the attention of researchers with new findings. This book is an attempt to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge acquired during the past three decades, and is also derived from a symposium held at the Medical Society of London, thirty years later and sponsored by the Mansell Bequest of that society. To give some idea of the topics covered since the Mansell Bequest Symposia started in 1976, a list of the preceding titles is given. Although pleading guilty to having been the organiser/convener/chairman of all these meetings and editor of the proceedings for the past 35 years, this book is to be my last endeavour for the Mansell Bequest. There have been recent volumes on the brain and music²⁻⁴ so there can be little doubt that this subject will continue to excite the minds of all who enjoy listening to music — which means everyone.

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¹ *Music and the Brain*, (Eds.) M. Critchley and R. A. Henson, 1977. William Heinemann, London.

² *The Cognitive Neuroscience of Music*, (Eds.) I. Perez and R. Zatorre, 2003. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

³ *This is Your Brain on Music*, D. J. Levitin, 2007. Penguin, London.

⁴ *Musicophilia*, Oliver Sachs, 2007. Picador, London.