

Introducing: Dr. Michael Thaut, Director of MaHRC

As Founding and Acting Director of MaHRC, I am pleased to announce that Michael H. Thaut, PhD. has been appointed Director of MaHRC to begin January 1, 2016. Dean Don McLean made the appointment official on December 14 after a rigorous and lengthy international search and appointment process.

Dr. Thaut is an international leader in neurologic music therapy. His research in brain function and music focuses both on temporal information processing related to rhythmicity and on the biomedical applications of music to the neurologic rehabilitation of cognitive and motor functions. His landmark discoveries concerning how auditory rhythm entrains motor and cognitive functions have led to the recognition of music as a language of brain rehabilitation. Dr. Thaut has developed a clinical system of Neurologic Music Therapy, which is applied world-wide and is endorsed by the World Federation of Neurorehabilitation. This program has reached thousands of researchers and music therapy practitioners around the world. At the University of Toronto, his new research will use pathway and complexity studies to examine the effects of rhythm on basal ganglia and cerebellar function, thereby furthering our understanding of the role of music in neurodevelopment and neurorehabilitation.



Dr. Thaut received his PhD in music and movement science from Michigan State University. He also studied at the Mozarteum Music University in Salzburg, Austria. At Colorado State University (CSU) he is a Professor of Music and Neuroscience and also served as Administrative Director of the School of the Arts from 2001 to 2010. He has been Director of CSU's Center for Biomedical Research in Music since 1994. Dr. Thaut has been a Visiting Professor in medical and music schools around the world (USA, Germany, Italy, Japan), and since 2010 has been Chancellor of the SRH-University System in Germany.

Over the past decade, Dr. Thaut and his co-investigators have received over \$4 million in prestigious and highly competitive research funding from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and private foundations. He received the American Music Therapy Association's National Research Award in 1993 and its National Service Award in 2001. His recent publication (with Volker Hoemberg), *The Oxford Handbook of Neurologic Music Therapy* (2014), was second overall in the British Medical Association (BMA) Book Awards for neurology (600 entries), an unprecedented achievement for a work in music and medicine. Dr. Thaut has authored/coauthored six books and over 200 scientific publications in multiple fields. His publications have appeared in leading journals, including *Frontiers in Psychology*, *Brain Sciences*, the *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, *Music Perception*, and the *Journal of Music Therapy*. Dr. Thaut is in demand globally (China, EU, UK, USA, Japan) as a keynote speaker on music, medicine, and neurorehabilitation therapy, and American and international TV and print media have featured his research. In addition, he is an elected member of the World Academy of Multidisciplinary Neurotraumatology and the World Federation of Neurologic Rehabilitation, is an International Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, and serves as Vice-President of the International Society for Music in Medicine.

Much of Dr. Thaut's career research has focused on rehabilitation using musical and rhythmic stimulation of functional neural channels to access damaged neurologic circuits. Dr. Thaut is in the approval process for the Canada Research Chair Tier 1 that was announced for the Faculty of Music by the Vice President Paul Young in June 2014. Prof. Thaut will pursue his CRC research program in the rich context of UofT's Music and Health Research Collaboratory (MaHRC), where he will lead the strategic agenda and help drive the innovative efforts of MaHRC's extraordinary interdisciplinary research teams. He will contribute strongly to the training of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in UofT's recently established multidisciplinary and collaborative graduate program (MA and PhD) in Music and Health, to the research in its affiliated hospitals and research clinics, and to the development of the Canadian and international music therapist community through his recognized and certified training program in Neurologic Music Therapy.

In addition to his groundbreaking work as a researcher and clinician, Dr. Thaut is an accomplished musician, having trained as a violinist at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, with special research and performance expertise in fiddle music (his *Das grosse Fiddlebuch* is in its 3rd edition) and improvisation (including its neurological bases). He also trained as a music educator with special interest in Orff at the Mozarteum and continuing his studies in Music Education through into his doctorate. This polymath capacity gives him exceptional cross-disciplinary credibility with advanced musicians as well as medical researchers and clinical practitioners in music therapy and neurorehabilitation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. Thaut Welcome Reception and Talk – January 26

On Tuesday January 26 MaHRC and the Faculty of Music is hosting a special Welcome event for the new Director. This will include a review of the “State of MaHRC” as part of the Music and Health Colloquium Series at 3:10 – 4:45. This is followed by a reception from 4:45 – 6:00 and the Official Welcome from 6:00 – 7:00 at which Dr. Thaut will present his Vision for the Future of MaHRC. All takes place in Walter Hall at the Faculty of Music. Please RSVP your attendance to: music.research@utoronto.ca or telephone: 416-978-3761.

Music and Health Colloquium

Tuesday February 23 3:10 – 4:30

Speaker TBA

Edward Johnson Building, Room 216

Tuesday March 29, 3:10 – 4:30

Speaker: Dr. Elaine Biddiss, Holland Bloorview

Topic: The Development of Music-Rehab Interfaces: ScreenPlay, Biosong, and Musical Steps.

Edward Johnson Building, Room 216

Special Talk by Michael Bakan on Autism and Music

Title: Music and Autism: An ethnomusicological perspective.

Monday March 14, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Edward Johnson Building, Room 130

Michael Bakan, Ph.D. is Professor of Ethnomusicology and Head of World Music at the College of Music, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. Michael is an Alumnus of the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto with a B. Mus in Performance with a major in percussion as a student of Russell Hartenberger. His subsequent studies took him to University of California, Los Angeles with an MA and PhD in Ethnomusicology. His recent publications include:

Bakan, M.B. 2015. “‘Don’t Go Changing to Try and Please Me’: Combating Essentialism through Ethnography in the Ethnomusicology of Autism.” *Ethnomusicology* 59(1), 116-44.

Bakan, M.B. 2015. “Being Applied in the Ethnomusicology of Autism.” In J.T. Titon and S. Pettan (Eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of Applied Ethnomusicology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Bakan, M.B. 2014. “The Musicality of Stimming: Promoting Neurodiversity in the Ethnomusicology of Autism.” *MUSICultures* 41(2), 133-61. Special Issue: Connecting with Communities.

Bakan, M.B. 2014. "Ethnomusicological Perspectives on Autism, Neurodiversity, and Music Therapy. *Voices: A World Forum for Music Therapy* 14(3). Special Issue on Music and Disability Studies.

<https://voices.no/index.php/voices/article/view/799/660>

Bakan, M.B. 2009. "Measuring Happiness in the 21st Century: Ethnomusicology, Evidence-Based Research, and the New Science of Autism." *Ethnomusicology*, 53(3), 510-18.

Cochlear Implants and Music

14th International Conference on Cochlear Implantation & Other Implantable Auditory Technologies

Toronto, Ontario CANADA

May 12 – 14, 2016

Music Day is May 13.

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Charles Limb, Michael Thaut, PhD, Sandra Trehub, PhD

International Neurologic Music Therapy Training Course

Location: University of Toronto, Faculty of Music

Dates: May 12 – 15, 2016

Instructors: Prof. Michael Thaut, Corene Hurt-Thaut, PhD, Ruth Rice, DPT, Suzanne Oliver, MT-BC, NMT Fellow.

For more information: <http://gopolestar.ca/NMT/images/NMTTrainingMay2016.pdf>

For registration: <http://gopolestar.ca/NMT/>

On the MaHRC Newsletter is created and edited by: Prof. Lee Bartel, Acting Director of MaHRC. For questions or comments: music.research@utoronto.ca

Live Links

NMT: For more information:

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