

Is Music Math or is Math Music?

Katya Zubov

Practical Applications of Advanced Mathematics

Mrs. Amy Goodrum and Mrs. Anna Hunt

Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Abstract

Music and math relate in various ways. Their relationship has been a topic of interest for centuries and many tests have been conducted to prove their relationship. First, musical instruction increases brain activity and makes it possible for people to process information in a different way, even after they discontinue their musical training. For example, someone who enjoys and was gifted at math eventually became a great composer and created magnificent symphonies, operas, and piano solos: Mozart. In this study, a survey was conducted with students who excel in science and mathematics. This study revealed that the majority of the students who got better grades in mathematics also are musically inclined. The conclusion was that in a group of students who received the same grade, generally at or above an A-, were musically inclined. Through this study and others, there is proof of a relationship between music and mathematical performance.