

## **Musical Meaning within Super Linguistics**

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We will summarize a recent proposal according to which music has a truth-conditional semantics, albeit a highly underspecified one. Briefly, the content of a music piece can be identified with the *set of inferences it licenses on its causal sources*, analyzed in appropriately abstract ways (e.g. corresponding to 'voices' in some Western music). This proposal highlights important differences between music semantics and combinatorial semantics in language, but it also suggests interesting connections with the iconic semantics of visual narratives and gestures. We will seek to evaluate the place of music semantics within recent extensions of semantics that consider these forms, especially with respect to the role of discourse referents, and the ways in which music can, like gestures, enrich or even replace other meaning-bearing forms, as recently proposed by Pasternak and Guerrini & Migotti.

### Relevant readings

Pasternak, Robert: 2019, The Projection of Co-Speech Sound Effects

<https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/004520>

Schlenker, Philippe: 2019, Prolegomena to Music Semantics, *Review of Philosophy & Psychology* [\[pdf\]](#)

Schlenker, Philippe: to appear, What is Super Semantics? To appear in *Philosophical Perspectives* [\[LingBuzz\]](#)