

PROCESSUS MULTITÂCHES
EN MUSIQUE ET EN INTERPRÉTATION :

**Peut-on et doit-on enseigner l'exécution
de tâches multiples ?**

FACULTÉ DE TRADUCTION
ET D'INTERPRÉTATION

Magdalena Olivera Tovar-Espada, PhD
Nathalie Loiseau



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

MULTITASKING PROCESSES IN MUSIC AND INTERPRETING:

Can and should multitasking be taught?

FACULTÉ DE TRADUCTION
ET D'INTERPRÉTATION

Magdalena Olivera Tovar-Espada, PhD
Nathalie Loiseau

日：時
失。程了
習，自
不亦以



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

Definition

- Multiples « multitaskings »
=> Une tâche complexe composée de 2 tâches ou plus, effectuées « simultanément » ou en parallèle
- Gagner du temps ?

Multitasking processes in the brain

- La « charge cognitive »
 - Degré d'implication de l'attention / d'automaticité
 - Limites de la mémoire et de l'attention
 - Mémoire « de travail »
 - Attention

Multitasking processes in the brain

- Observations neurologiques :
 - 1/ le tunnel
 - Hypothèse du « goulet d'étranglement »

Multitasking processes in the brain

- Observations neurologiques :
 - 2/ division : une tâche, ça va...

Multitasking processes in the brain

- Observations neurologiques:
3/ différences individuelles

MULTITASKING IN MUSIC AND INTERPRETING

FACULTÉ DE TRADUCTION
ET D'INTERPRÉTATION
Département d'Interprétation

失。程了
日：「時
習，自
不亦



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

Music and Interpreting - Theory

Musical accompaniment

- Listening to the other(s) parts
- Real-time processing
- Producing one's performance
- **3 scenarios of comparison**

Simultaneous interpreting

- Listening to the speaker in the source language
- Real-time processing
- Transposing the message into the target language

Music and Interpreting - Empirical

- **1. Multitasking experiment** (Hengl & Loiseau, 2007)

Once upon a time ...

BEEP

beep

BEEP

-
- Questions on the text

Music and Interpreting - Empirical

- **1. Multitasking experiment**
 - **Independent variables** observed
 - **Language** variables:
 - Foreign language proficiency: self-evaluation
 - Exposure to the language: years
 - **Music** variables
 - Sight-reading, musical accompaniment, ensemble performance, improvised accompaniment: self-evaluation
 - Experience: years

Music and Interpreting - Empirical

- **2. SI pilot test**
 - **Simultaneous** Interpretation without text of a short speech (2 min):

When your parents were young...

- **Same variables**

Music and Interpreting - Conclusions

- **Multitasking experiment:**
 - Participants with a musical background performed better
 - Not a musical exercise => possibility of transfer?
 - Have they acquired (learnt) these multitasking skills => they can be taught? Or they were originally more talented? Or both?
 - Some other tendencies observed (language, gender)
- **SI pilot test:**
 - Participants with a better knowledge of FL1 performed better
 - In this case, musicians not better => maybe some skills are domain-specific? Or maybe because not professional musicians?
 - Some other tendencies observed (music, gender)

MULTITASKING TRAINING ?

FACULTÉ DE TRADUCTION
ET D'INTERPRÉTATION
Département d'Interprétation

失。程了
日：「時
習，自
不亦



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

Multitasking training ?

- **1. Effets de l'entraînement : résultats**

- Améliore les performances dans LA combinaison pratiquée
- « Multitasking média » : pas un bon entraînement

Multitasking training ?

- **2. Effets de l'entraînement : processus**

- **Automatisation**

- **Traitement attentionnel**

- Rapidité de traitement
 - Amélioration de plusieurs tâches cognitives : programme d'entraînement ?

Multitasking training ?

- CONCLUSIONS

- MT : combinaison entre tâches conscientes et automatiques
 - Trouver le bon équilibre
- Interprétation, musique : le défi de l'expertise “adaptable”

THANK YOU

...

for your ATTENTION!

FACULTÉ DE TRADUCTION
ET D'INTERPRÉTATION

Magdalena Olivera Tovar-Espada, PhD
Nathalie Loiseau

日：時
失。程了
習，自
不亦以



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

Indicative References

- Charron S, Koechlin E. Divided representation of concurrent goals in the human frontal lobes. *Science*. 328(360), 360-363 (2010).
- Clapp W, Rubens M, Sabharwal J, Gazzaley A. Deficit in switching between functions underlies the impact of multitasking memory in older adults. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 108(17), 7212-7217 (2011).
- Dux P, Tombu M, Harrison S, Rogers B, Tong F, Marois R. Training improves multitasking performance by increasing the speed of information processing in human prefrontal cortex. *Neuron*. 63(1): 127–138 (2009).
- Filmer H, Mattingley J, Dux P. Improved multitasking following prefrontal tDCS. *cortex* 49, 2845-2852 (2013)
- Garner K, Tombu M, Dux P. The influence of training on the attentional blink and psychological refractory period. *Atten Percept Psychophys* 76, 979–999 (2014)
- Harmon K. Motivated multitasking: How the brain keeps tabs on two tasks at once. *Scientific American Mind*. April 15, 2010.
- Klingberg T. Limitations in information processing in the human brain: neuroimaging of dual task performance and working memory tasks. In Uylings, C.G. Van Eden, J.P.C. De Bruin, M.G.P. Feenstra and C.M.A. Pennartz, *Progress in Brain Research*, Vol 126. Elsevier Science BV (2000).
- Ophir E, Nass C, Wagner A. Cognitive control in media multitaskers. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 106(37), 15583-15587 (2009).
- Strayer D, Watson J. Supertaskers and the multitasking brain. *Scientific American Mind*. February 16, 2012.
- Timarová Š, Čeňková I, Meylaerts R, Hertog E, Szmałec A, Duyck W. Simultaneous interpreting and working memory executive control. *Interpreting* 16(2), 139-168 (2014).
- Tombu M, Asplunda C, Dux P, Godwin D, Martin J, Marois R. A Unified attentional bottleneck in the human brain. *PNAS* 2011.

