The Social Origins of Music



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This is basically the finest publication i actually have go through till now. We have read and i also am confident that i am going to likely to read through again once more in the foreseeable future. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.
(Prof. Adell Lubowitz)

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Grin Verlag Okt 2011, 2011. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 211x147x23 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Titel. - Doctoral Thesis / Dissertation from the year 2011 in the subject Biology - Evolution, grade: magna cum laude, Humboldt-University of Berlin (Institut für Theoretische Biologie), language: English, abstract: Creating music is a distinctive behavior of our species: Humans of all cultures occasionally gather to make music together. However, there is discussion amongst scientists as to whether such behavior is a manifestation of innate psychological mechanisms that evolved as adaptations for music, or whether the diversity of musical behavior simply exemplifies the inventiveness of the human mind, in which case music should be considered a product of human culture. Scholars advocating the latter view divide further into those who believe that music is an evolutionary by-product, existing only for hedonistic reasons, and those who argue that certain musical behaviors emerged because they serve some culturally adaptive function. The goal of my dissertation was to add new empirical data to this debate by conducting behavioral studies with preschool children. In study 1 I tested the hypothesis that certain musical rituals emerged to foster social bonding, ultimately increasing prosocial in-group behavior. I found that joint music making enhances subsequent cooperative and helpful behavior among pairs of 4-year-old children. In study 2 I investigated the ontogeny of rhythmic entrainment, our ability to move in synchrony to a musical beat. I found that children spontaneously entrain their movements to an external drum beat at earlier ages and with higher accuracy if that beat is presented in a social context. Study 2 revealed large inter-individual differences in synchronization accuracy. To explain these, I hypothesized that rhythmic entrainment develops via social learning processes during early musical enculturation. I extended the original design of study...

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