

## COMPARING PSI AND PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY BETWEEN CLASSICALLY TRAINED MUSICIANS AND NON-MUSICIANS

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### **Abstract**

Progress in the field of psi research is directly dependent on the identification of populations and procedures for replicating the effect. This in turn is dependent upon our ability to identify correlates of successful psi performance. This study drew on our previous work with the ganzfeld as a psi conducive procedure and our observation that advanced artistic populations may be good psi subjects. The current study involved 25 ganzfeld psi sessions with musicians (including people with five years or more of musical training) and 25 psi sessions with non musicians (less than five years of training). The experiment made use of a "sender" and "receiver" model in which a "receiver" of psi information was placed in a sensory restriction environment and asked to describe a randomly selected target being viewed by a "sender" in another room. EEG data were collected using a comfortable 28-channel electrode-cap connected to a NeuroScan SynAMP set of digital amplifiers. Data were recorded on disk and analyzed offline using NeuroScan SCAN 4.0 software. GSR data were also recorded. Both subjects and experimenters served as judges. The study attempted to address three hypotheses: there would be an overall psi effect across subjects based on effect size and statistical significance, that musicians would score higher than non-musicians in the psi task, and that musicians would display a distinctive psychophysiological profile as compared with non-musicians.

While we did not find statistically significant evidence of psi, the effect size was well within the range expected for ganzfeld studies with

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unselected subjects (.3 for subject judging and .35 for experimenter judging). No significant difference was found between musicians and nonmusicians, with a reverse trend identified, and no distinctive psychophysiological profile was found for musicians. A highly significant gender difference was found, with women scoring significantly better than men. A discussion follows of the differences between this and previous studies with musical populations.

Additional analyses are now under way in the EEG and GSR data.