

THE APPLICATION OF BASIC EMOTION THEORY IN PERFORMANCE

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**WHAT IS
BASIC EMOTION THEORY
(BET)?**

PSYCHOLOGY

- BET EMERGED IN THE 1970S
- SMALL NUMBER OF 'BASIC' EMOTIONS
- CORRELATED TO FACIAL EXPRESSIONS,
ENABLING PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY

OVER TO MUSIC...

- IN MUSICOLOGY, CONNECTIONS BETWEEN HUMAN EMOTION AND MUSIC HAS BEEN STUDIED FOR A LONG TIME
- SYSTEMATIC APPLICATION OF BET IS RELATIVELY RECENT (2 DECADES OR SO)
- BASIC EMOTIONS CORRELATED TO AUDITORY CUES
- SEE THE WORK OF PATRICK N. JUSLIN (MUSICAL EMOTIONS EXPLAINED, 2019)

**WHY SHOULD THIS
INTEREST PERFORMERS?**

**A STEP BACK:
A QUESTION OF
MUSICAL PHILOSOPHY**

WHY DO WE PLAY MUSIC?

**EMOTION IS A KEY
MOTIVATION FOR
LISTENING TO MUSIC**

THEREFORE...

IF EMOTIONS PLAY A CENTRAL
PART OF MUSIC, EXACTLY *HOW*
PERFORMERS CAN BEST
COMMUNICATE EMOTIONS IS
CRITICAL

MUSIC – SCORE
(ANALYSIS)



ARTISTIC CONCEPT
(INTERPRETATION)



TECHNICAL MEDIUM
(EXECUTION)

REPRODUCIBILITY...

**SPECIFIC MUSICAL IDEAS
SHOULD HAVE SPECIFIC
TECHNICAL
CONSEQUENCES**

**HOW TO MAKE THESE
DECISIONS?**

**‘I THINK THIS MUSIC IS ABOUT
THE BITTER ANGUISH OF LOSS’**

OK, great...

Should I play that F# loudly or quietly?

FRAMEWORKS

- Intuition (personal)
- Cognitive science (intersubjective)

FINALLY...

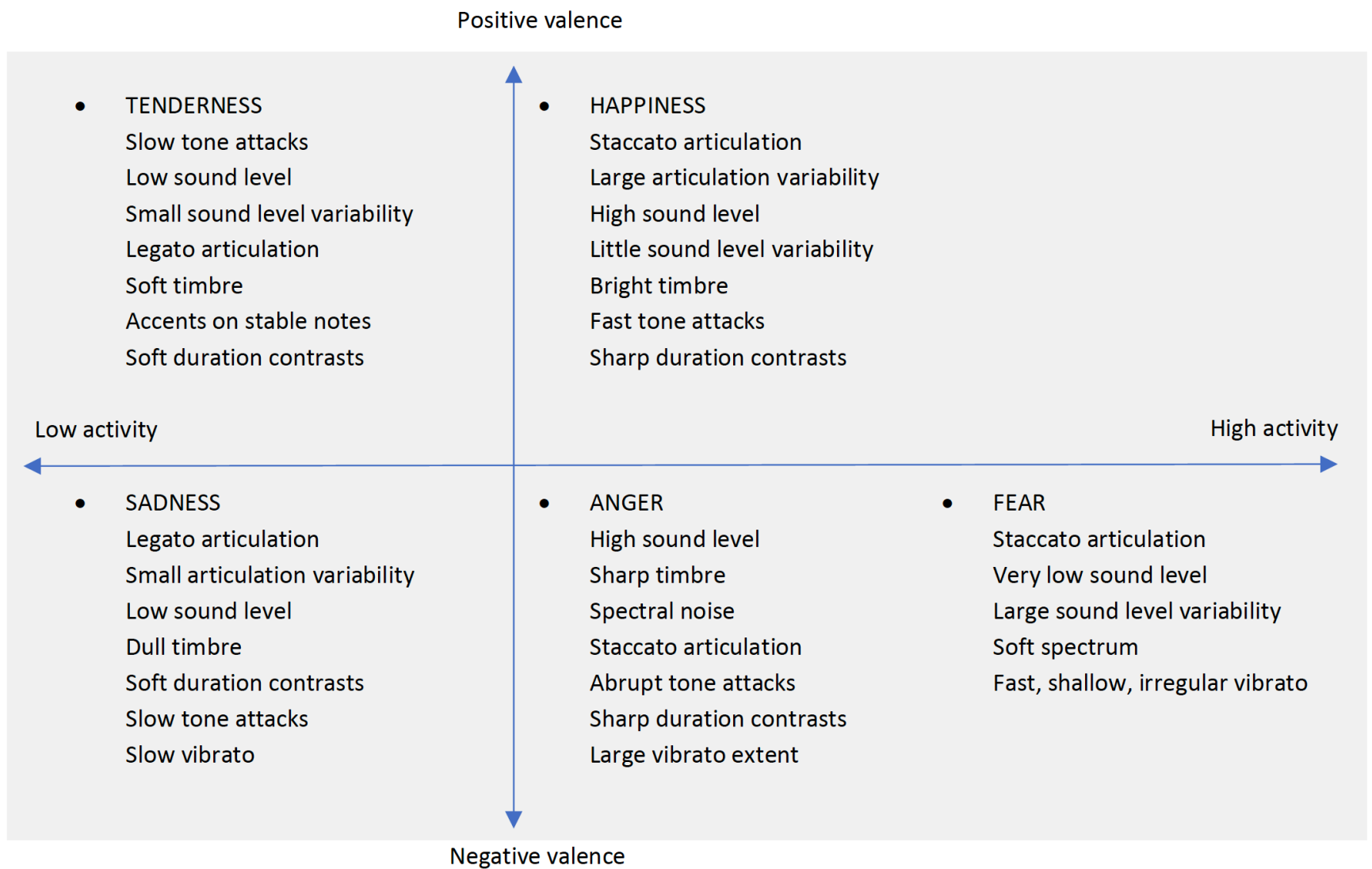


Table reproduced from Juslin & Timmer (2010). *Expression and Communication of Emotion in Music Performance*.

SOME EXAMPLES

Torija (Elegía)

Edited by Emmanuel Słowicz
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Federico Moreno Torroba
Spain 1891–1982

Duration: ca. 3'15

Largo (♩ = 48-58 approx.)

⑥ = D

p

3

mf

6

più animato

9

a tempo

Al ilustre Dr. Walter Leckie

PRELUDIO

Nº 5.

PARA GUITARRA.

por FRANCISCO TÁRREGA.

Propiedad.

Depositado.

Andte sostenuto.

The musical score consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 3/4. The score includes various annotations and performance instructions:

- Staff 1:** Starts with the tempo marking *Andte sostenuto.* It features a melodic line with a *C.2a* (Crescendo 2nd) marking and a *p* (piano) dynamic.
- Staff 2:** Includes a *f* (forte) dynamic, a *C.7a* marking, a *C.9a* marking, and a *p* dynamic.
- Staff 3:** Features a *un poco cresc:* (un poco crescendo) instruction and a *Pritar:* (Pritar) instruction.
- Staff 4:** Includes an *ar* (arpeggio) marking and a *C.5a* marking.

The score is rich with fingering numbers (1-4) and circled numbers (1-6) indicating specific techniques and fingerings for the guitar. The music is characterized by flowing, melodic lines with some chromatic movement.

**JUST A TOOL, BASED ON
COGNITIVE SCIENCE RESEARCH
TO SEEK MAXIMUM EFFECT**

...NON-PRESCRIPTIVE!

REMEMBER...

REPRODUCIBILITY...

**SPECIFIC MUSICAL IDEAS
SHOULD HAVE SPECIFIC
TECHNICAL
CONSEQUENCES**

...however you choose to make those decisions

THANK YOU