

GRAND ROUNDS



Thursday, March 26, 2026

Location: Zoom ([RSVP for zoom link](#))

4:30pm- 6:00pm

Music and the Brain: Linking Melody, the Mind and Health

Vincent P. de Luise, MD, FACS

Music surrounds us. It is part of who we are as humans. How foundational is music? Did it precede language? Why is the octave found in all cultures and most cultures also use the pentatonic scale? What is the Mozart Effect? Can Mozart's music make us smarter? Can the music of other composers make us smarter? Where does music go in the brain? What are musical *frissons*? How does music interact with the mesolimbic reward-pleasure pathway? Why do major chords often sound happy whereas minor chords sound sad? Is it our cultural bias, or is it the music? What is synesthesia? Can we see music or taste it? Does music have color? Can we paint in notes? Can the brain make its own music? How does music help those with Alzheimer Disease, Parkinson Disease or traumatic brain injury? Can music heal?



Vincent de Luise M.D F.A.C.S. is an assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology at Yale University School of Medicine, and a distinguished visiting scholar at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. He is also on the adjunct faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College and serves on the advisory board of the Weill Cornell Music and Medicine Orchestra. Dr. de Luise is a graduate of Princeton University, Weill Cornell Medical College and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. He was a Heed Fellow at the Proctor Foundation of UCSF, and a Fellow at Harvard University's Advanced Leadership Institute. Dr de Luise is cultural ambassador and program

annotator of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra and is president of the Connecticut Summer Opera Foundation. As a clarinetist, Dr. deLuise organized the Connecticut Mozart Festival and co-founded the annual classical music recital at the American Academy Ophthalmology. He is active as a chamber music recitalist and lectures frequently on music and the arts.

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