



SIGMA XI
THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SOCIETY

Distinguished Lecture Seminar



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“Good Vibrations: The Interplay of Music and Physics”

Scholars and musicians from the ancient Greeks to modern times have asked questions about music: Why do we find the combination of certain pitches pleasing? Why do two different instruments playing the same note sound different? Can musical instruments be improved (and what would that mean)? The answers to these questions arise from the profound connections between music and physics. I will elucidate (and demonstrate) some principles of musical acoustics and explore how they affect the way instruments work and how we experience musical sound. In doing so I will draw on my background as a physicist and a musician, and on my experience co-teaching a course on the subject with a professional musician.



Wednesday, November 20, 2019

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5:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided

