

Christian Cappelluti

Perfect Pitch Training: research study

The project consists of a research study in Absolute Pitch Training. Absolute Pitch (also commonly known as Perfect Pitch) is the ability to recognize actual notes, chords, and music progressions by ear alone, without the help of any instruments.

Most music teachers believe that AP cannot be taught or developed, and that only some lucky musicians just happen to be born with this "supernatural" ability. The only person in the world that publicly claims to be able to teach AP is Professor David L. Burge, a worldwide famous musician who has developed his unique approach to music instruction and ear training. Most people who know about his AP Training Course are very skeptical about it and, even though they do not even take the time to actually verify the course's effectiveness on themselves, they remain rigid in their belief that AP cannot be developed and that musicians can only be lucky enough to be born with it.

Since my earliest musical studies in my native Rome, Italy, I have always been extremely interested in the AP phenomenon, and I am currently enrolled in my 4th consecutive semester of Independent Studies in Ear Training, under the supervision of Dr. Peter Kairoff. Over the course of his previous semesters of Ear Training Studies, and following Professor Burge's ideas, I have indeed developed AP to a rather high level, and I am now looking into the possibility of expanding my hearing abilities even further. However, teaching materials in this area are virtually non-existent.

I have therefore contacted Professor Burge himself, explained how successful I have been in developing AP, and asked for suggestions about further education and higher-level training. Professor Burge enthusiastically replied that he would be willing to use his lifetime expertise to provide me with five days of individual instruction in High-level AP Training, over the period of time that corresponds with Wake Forest's Christmas Break. Professor Burge has also showed a great interest in the research that I am conducting at Wake Forest, under the supervision of Dr. Kairoff, and has expressed his desire to share with me his own experiences in ear training research.

I have also established contacts with the major American and Italian music publications (Musician, Guitar Player, Keyboards, Drum Club, MakingMusic) to have an article published where I explain my own findings in AP Training. All publications showed a great interest in the subject, since AP is a very fascinating area for any musician, but there are really no experts in this field, besides Professor Burge.

The above mentioned 7 days of interaction with Professor Burge would provide me with direct access to the most knowledgeable person in the world as regards AP and Ear Training in general. As a result of this, I will learn new tools that I can use to expand his musicianship towards further horizons. Also, I would be likely to become a true expert in the field of ear training, since Professor Burge himself admitted, after hearing about my achievements, that he had never heard of any other person with such a high interest in ear training. Dr. Kairoff would be obviously extremely interested in hearing my report about this experience with Professor Burge, since it would enormously

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