Metrical Structure and Grouping: Hierarchical Organization of Rhythmic Domains

One important theoretical framework for the comparative approach to language and music was introduced by Lerdahl and Jackendoff (1983) in their book *A Generative Theory of Tonal Grammar* which has still a strong impact on the recent language-music paradigm. In their book, similarity of metrical structure in language and music was demonstrated, on which our talk will focus too, by discussing the theory of Fabb and Halle (2012) attempting to extend the proposal of Lerdahl and Jackendoff (1983). In our talk, the claim of Fabb and Halle (2012) that “computations of the same kind determine the well-formedness of certain structures in language, metrical verse, and music” (Fabb and Halle 2012: 4) is introduced as the basis of further discussions considering parallels and non-parallels of language and music. The discussions will focus on the relation between metrical structure and grouping which apparently accounts for hierarchical organization of rhythmic domain in language and music.