IS THERE CERTAIN PERSONALITY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC OR PERSONALITY OF POP MUSIC?

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the relationship between the preference of classical music or pop music and personality traits. The participants were 355 college students (168 males and 187 females) whose ages ranged from 17 to 37 (M=21.61, SD=2.28), the Big Five Locator test and the BAS/BIS Scale were used to measure personality traits, and Music Preference Questionnaire (MPQ), developed by authors, was used to measure preference of classical music or pop music. Results revealed the preference of classical music was positively correlated with openness and conscientiousness as the factors of Big five personality, and also positively correlated with drive and fun-seeking of BAS, and with behavioral inhibition, too. The preference of pop music was positively correlated with extraversion and openness as the factors of Big five personality, and also positively correlated with reward responsiveness and fun-seeking of BAS as well as with BIS. This study verifies some personality traits related to music preference, especially the preference of classical music or pop music and suggests that dispositional and motivational personality factors are more closely related to music preference than to personality characters.

Keyword: Music, Personality, Music Psychology