Vocal timbre preference in children

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Hyun Ju Chong's research topics and interests focus on music therapy interventions in psychodynamic orientation. As a doctoral candidate, she has been teaching music therapy courses and supervising music therapy students in clinical field work settings at the University of Kansas since 1997. For her dissertation, Hyun Ju Chong has been researching the relationships between self-concept and vocal characteristics in a music therapy setting.

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cases where vocal timbres was used as variable, male voices with low level of vibrato were preferred over female voices with high level of vibrato. Conclusion. It should be noted that nearly all of the studies have been conducted in the United States (except Teo, 1998, which was conducted in Singapore). "Preference choice and identification of simple musical structures by children." Studia Psychologica, 23(1), 85-92. LeBlanc, A. (1981). "Effects of style, tempo, and performing medium on children's music preference." Journal of Research in Music Education, 29(2), 143-156. LeBlanc, A. (1982). Physiology and vocal timbre The sound of each individual's voice is entirely unique not only because of the actual shape and size of an individual's vocal cords... Any one of these actions results in a change in pitch, volume, timbre, or tone of the sound produced. Sound also resonates within different parts of the body, and an individual's size and bone structure can affect somewhat the sound produced by an individual. Singers can also learn to project sound in certain ways so that it resonates better within their vocal tract. This is known as vocal resonation. Another major influence on vocal sound and production is the function of the larynx, which people can manipulate in different ways to produce different sounds. Timbre is the reason it's so easy to discern idiosyncratic voices -- the famously velvety sound of Barry White, the nasal tone of Gilbert Gottfried, and the gravelly sound of Tom Waits -- even if they're all singing the same note, Piazza explains. Piazza and her colleagues at the Princeton Baby Lab, including Marius Catalin Iordan and Casey Lew-Williams, are generally interested in the way children learn to detect structure in the voices around them during early language acquisition. The researchers say the next step is to explore how the timbre shift helps infants in learning. They suspect that the unique timbre fingerprint could help babies learn to differentiate and direct their attention to their mother's voice from the time they are born. And don't worry, dads.