

SCIENTIST • PIANIST • KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SIMONE DALLA BELLA, PhD

The science of being in sync

Cognitive neuroscientist
Professor, Université de Montréal
Co-Director, BRAMS



SIGNATURE KEYNOTE

THE RHYTHM THAT BRINGS US BACK

How rhythm helps us reconnect, recover, and thrive

Rhythm begins in the body, from the heartbeat to the way we walk, speak, and move with others. Simone Dalla Bella reveals how the brain turns rhythm into prediction and action. He explores what happens when the brain's timing system breaks down and people fall out of sync with their bodies and the world. He also shows how music, rhythmic training, and new technologies can help them reconnect, recover function, and thrive. At the piano, he turns science into a live experience, making rhythm audible, visible, and deeply felt.



WHAT AUDIENCES GAIN

- A clear understanding of how rhythm shapes movement, speech, attention, and coordination with others.
- Insight into what happens when the brain's sense of timing is disrupted, as in Parkinson's disease, ADHD, or dyslexia.
- A practical view of how music, rhythm exercises, serious games, and tools such as tablets, apps, and movement sensors can support recovery and bring training into everyday life.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

THE LIVE RHYTHM LAB

A participatory 60–90 minute experience combining accessible neuroscience, live piano and rhythm demonstrations, and audience activities. A half-day version is available for professional or educational groups.

CORE THEMES

01

RHYTHM SHAPES US

From the heartbeat to walking, speaking, and moving with others, rhythm organizes how we experience and interact with the world.

02

WHEN WE FALL OUT OF SYNC

How disruptions in timing can affect movement, attention, communication, and daily life in conditions such as Parkinson's disease, ADHD, and dyslexia.

03

RHYTHM BRINGS US BACK

How music, repeated practice, serious games, and digital tools can help restore timing and function, reconnect people with everyday life, and enable them to thrive.

INTERNATIONAL PROFILE

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR

Auditory-motor learning, music, and new technologies

CO-DIRECTOR OF BRAMS

A leading international laboratory for research on music and the brain

GLOBAL SPEAKER

100+ invited talks, including 60+ internationally across North America, Europe, and Australia
English • French • Italian • Polish

MEDIA FEATURES

BBC • Nature • PNAS • Le Monde • ARTE • CBC/Radio-Canada

FLEXIBLE FORMATS

30, 45, or 60 minutes | optional Q&A | optional piano and audience rhythm demonstrations | extended **lecture-performance** with a brief closing piano performance

SELECTED STAGES

SXSW Sydney • Max Planck Institute • Karolinska Institutet • University of Cambridge • Eastman School of Music • The Neurosciences and Music • McMaster Institute for Music & the Mind • World Congress of Neurology public program with musicians of the Montréal Symphony Orchestra

INVITATIONS & INFORMATION

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