

# A Methodological Design for the Study of Expressive Bodily Movement in Saxophone Performance

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## BACKGROUND

- Studying **musicians' expressive bodily movement** rises methodological discussions given its **subjective nature**: What kind of movement is considered expressive? How can movement convey information about music?
- Research suggests: the inclusion of **different persons' perspectives** (Leman, 2016) and combination of **qualitative and quantitative data** (Visi et al., 2020), and the **need to adapt previous procedures to each musical instrument** due to its specificities (biomechanical characteristics, playing technique) (Davidson, 2012)

## AIMS

To develop a **methodological design** to study ancillary movements integrated in saxophone performance with the goal of **extracting expressive gestural patterns and establishing pedagogical guidelines for sax players** on body awareness for facilitative and communicative purposes.

## METHODS

### PHASE A

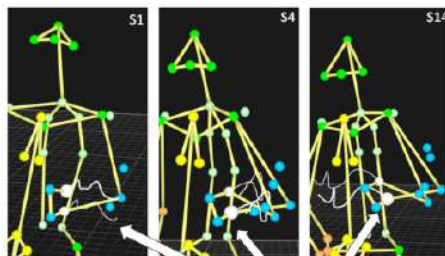
Movement Analysis of Saxophonists  
(Qualitative and Quantitative)

200 samples: motion | video | audio  
20 interviews

### PHASE B

Audience Perception Assessment

A1: GENERAL OPINION Participate Here!  
A2: AUDITORY PERCEPTION



Rhythmic Aids: three performers executing wrist gestures in each B

## RESULTS

Gesture Vocabulary for Saxophone Performance comprises 15 types

5 Music-related Gestural Trends (Moura et al., 2023)



Bell Circles were executed by 100% of the participants and represented 5% of gestural events

## DISCUSSION

- Beneficial effects of mixed methods** on the study of musicians' expressive bodily motion
- Appropriate data collection design and marker setup** for sax players
- Gestural behaviors adapted into **pedagogical guidelines**

## Literature Cited

Davidson, J. W. (2012). Bodily movement and facial actions in expressive musical performance by solo and duo instrumentalists: Two distinctive case studies. *Psychology of Music*, 40(5), 595–633. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03017472.2012.714499>

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Visi, F., Östernjö, S., Ek, R., & Röljezon, U. (2020). Method Development for Multimodal Data Corpus Analysis of Expressive Instrumental Music Performance. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11(December). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.576751>

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