Sensorimotor Learning Enhances Expectations During Auditory Perception

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Sounds that have been produced with one’s own motor system tend to be remembered better than sounds that have only been perceived, suggesting a role of motor information in memory for auditory stimuli. To address potential contributions of the motor network to the recognition of previously produced sounds, we used event-related potential, electric current density, and behavioral measures to investigate memory for produced and perceived melodies. Musicians performed or listened to novel melodies, and then heard the melodies either in their original version or with single pitch alterations. Production learning enhanced subsequent recognition accuracy and increased amplitudes of N200, P300, and N400 responses to pitch alterations. Premotor and supplementary motor regions showed greater current density during the initial detection of alterations in previously produced melodies than in previously perceived melodies, associated with the N200. Primary motor cortex was more strongly engaged by alterations in previously produced melodies within the P300 and N400 timeframes. Motor memory traces may therefore interface with auditory pitch percepts in premotor regions as early as 200 ms following perceived pitch onsets. Outcomes suggest that auditory–motor interactions contribute to memory benefits conferred by production experience, and support a role of motor prediction mechanisms in the production effect.

Keywords: auditory–motor learning, event-related potentials, memory recognition, music, production effect

Introduction

Perception involves the comparison of incoming sensory information with information stored in memory. If a newly encountered stimulus corresponds to a memory trace that is associated with a previously encountered stimulus, recognition can occur. Several behavioral manipulations, including repetition (Hintzman 1976), elaboration (Craik and Lockhart 1972), and organization (Mandler 1967), have previously been used to show benefits in memory retention and subsequent recognition. Recent research in the auditory domain suggests an additional behavioral memory aid: sensorimotor production. Sounds that have been produced with one’s own motor system tend to be recognized better than sounds that have simply been perceived (MacLeod et al. 2010). Spoken words tend to be remembered better than words that are mouthed without sound (Gathercole and Conway 1988), or listened to without movement (MacDonald and MacLeod 1998). Similarly, musical melodies performed on a piano with normal auditory feedback are recognized at higher rates than melodies that have only been perceived, or have been produced without sound (Brown and Palmer 2012). This production effect on memory recognition has been attributed to the presence of an additional dimension along which produced stimuli can be discriminated from non-produced stimuli during recognition (Conway and Gathercole 1987; Dodson and Schacter 2001; Ozubko and MacLeod 2010).

The neural mechanisms of production-based improvement in memory recognition are currently unknown, and the more general links between sensorimotor processing of auditory events and memory processes remain largely unexplored. Sensorimotor experience on tasks such as learning to speak a new language or play a musical instrument is known to yield significant structural (Schlaug 2001; Draganski and May 2008; Hyde et al. 2009) and functional (Hund-Georgiadis and von Cramon 1999; Jäncke et al. 2000; Ungerleider et al. 2002; Golestani and Zatorre 2004) changes in the brain. Musicians, for example, develop strong associations between precise movements and their specific auditory outcomes over years of practice (Palmer 1997; Zatorre et al. 2007), and reciprocal cortical auditory–motor interactions have been observed during both music performance (Baumann et al. 2005; Bangert et al. 2006) and music perception (Haslinger et al. 2005; Koelsch et al. 2006; Brown and Martinez 2007). Superior temporal areas and motor planning regions are often co-activated in response to either pure auditory or silent motor tasks (Bangert et al. 2001; Bangert and Altenmüller 2003; D’Ausilio et al. 2006). The premotor and the inferior frontal cortices have been implicated in a perception–execution matching system in which the motor system is activated by perceived sounds (Bangert et al. 2006; Fiebach and Schubotz 2006; Lahav et al. 2007). Activation of motor associations during auditory perception is a potential mechanism for effects of production experience on auditory memory.

An important aspect of complex auditory stimuli, such as language and music, is that these stimuli are sequential: Elements (e.g., words and tones) follow one another in specific orders, permitting the prediction of upcoming sounds on the basis of current and previous sounds during perception (Jones and Boltz 1989; Federmeier 2007; Tillmann 2012). Perceiving the first few tones of a familiar melody, for example, activates memory traces corresponding to that melody, which then in turn leads listeners to predict future tones. The perception of auditory sequences that have been previously produced may therefore involve sensorimotor prediction mechanisms, in which the motor system generates a model of the motor plan associated with an upcoming auditory event (the perceptual outcome of the motor plan) (Schubotz 2007). According to current motor control models, an effenter copy of a simulated action plan originates in supplementary motor and premotor areas and is communicated to the parietal cortex during perception (Schubotz and von Cramon 2003; Haggard and Whitford 2004; Rauschecker and Scott 2009). In contrast to old/new
or remember/know recognition paradigms in which subjects make judgments regarding a single-stimulus event (or several events perceived simultaneously, e.g., in the visual modality), predictive processing and listener expectations may have a considerable influence on how successfully the cognitive system is able to recognize matches and mismatches of newly encountered material with previously encountered material, particularly for auditory sequences. Models of motor simulation and prediction remain largely untested, and it is possible that the involved brain regions play a role in processing memory deviants in previously produced auditory sequences.

Neural recognition processes unfold rapidly, following sound onsets. Pitch percepts corresponding to incoming sensory acoustic information are thought to be fully formed and compared with stored memory representations within 200 ms (Näätänen and Winkler 1999). The auditory N200 event-related potential (ERP), arising from a network of generators including the anterior cingulate, primary auditory cortex, and frontal regions, has been taken to signal a mismatch between sensory input and stored memory representations, with amplitudes scaling according to the strength of the memory violation (Folstein and Van Petten 2008). Subsequent P300 and N400 potentials coincide with the cognitive evaluation of the newly perceived stimulus (Polich 2007; Kutas and Federmeier 2011). Whereas the P300 and accompanying frontal activation have been linked to shifts of auditory attention (Escera et al. 2002) and mental imagery processes (Navarro Cebrian and Janata 2010), and may index the cognitive significance of a stimulus (Nieuwenhuis et al. 2005), the N400 and accompanying medial temporal lobe activation are thought to index stimulus familiarity (Voss and Federmeier 2011). Motor involvement in auditory recognition processes or the use of motor simulation or motor imagery during auditory perception would recruit the motor network (Jeannerod 2001; Bangert et al. 2006; Lotze 2013), which could then respond to events deviating from motor memory traces, thereby enhancing ERP responses to memory deviants. Motor activity should be more pronounced in the hemisphere contralateral to movements, following a functional cortical organization corresponding to that of overt movements (Johnson 1998; Carrillo-de-la-Peña et al. 2008). If the motor system does not contribute to production-based memory enhancement during subsequent perception, we would expect equivalent involvement of the motor system in the perception of both previously perceived and previously produced auditory stimuli.

The goal of the current study was to investigate the neural correlates of effects of auditory–motor learning on memory recognition processes. More specifically, we aimed to elucidate the time course of cortical motor contributions to the processing of deviations from stored memory representations (i.e., expectancy violations), as well as the relationship between production-based memory enhancement and scalp electrophysiological responses to perceived auditory events. Behavioral, ERP, and electric current density source localization measures were used to examine skilled musicians’ processing of memory violations in auditorily presented melodies that had previously been learned by either production (movements paired with normal auditory feedback) or perception-only. Therefore, neural responses to the same physical stimulus items were measured, while perceivers’ prior sensorimotor experience of the stimuli was manipulated.

On the basis of the production effect on memory for auditory stimuli (Brown and Palmer 2012), we expected skilled pianist participants to more accurately identify memory-violating pitches in previously produced melodies compared with previously perceived melodies. Memory violations were expected to elicit N200, P300, and N400 ERP responses, with larger amplitudes following production experience in comparison to perception-only experience. Given the evidence of neural motor contributions to the perception of previously performed music in skilled musicians and the purported role of motor preparation areas in sensorimotor prediction (Schubotz 2007), we expected the motor network, and the premotor cortex in particular, to show greater involvement in the processing of pitches deviating from production-based memories compared with perception-based memories. As the melodies learned by pianists involved movements of the right hand only, we also predicted that regions activated within the motor network would show greater leftward lateralization in response to violations in melodies learned by production compared with melodies learned by perception.

Materials and Methods

Participants
Twenty-six adult pianists from the Lyon community participated in the study. Six were excluded from analyses due to excessive electroencephalography (EEG) artifacts. The remaining 20 pianists (15 women, age \( M = 21.7 \) years, \( SD = 3.1 \) years) had between 6 and 20 years of piano experience (\( M = 11.7 \) years, \( SD = 2.8 \) years). Eighteen participants were right-handed and 2 were left-handed. All participants reported playing piano regularly and none possessed absolute pitch. No participants reported any hearing problems. Participants provided written informed consent, and the study was conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Declaration of Helsinki.

Materials
Twelve 12-note melodies in 4/4 time signature, conforming to conventions of Western tonal music, were used in the study (see Fig. 1 for an example of a melody). The melodies were selected from a larger corpus (Brown and Palmer 2012) and were assigned to one of 2 sets so that each set was equated in terms of previously acquired recognition accuracy scores (Brown and Palmer 2012). Audio recordings of naturally performed melodies were obtained from 2 skilled pianists with Cubase 6 software (Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH) from an M-Audio Keystation 88es MIDI piano keyboard. A 500-ms interonset interval metronome, which sounded for 8 quarter notes prior to the start of each recording, set the performance tempo. These recordings were presented to participants during the perception learning condition with a Cubase HALion One piano timbre. The same timbre was used for the auditory feedback heard during the production learning condition.

Learning phase melody:

\[\text{Learning phase melody:}\]

\[\text{Memory recognition test melody (altered target):}\]

\[\text{Figure 1. Top: One of the notated stimulus melodies. Fingers used to strike piano keys were notated below the musical staff for melodies in both learning conditions. Finger numbers were indicated only for tones for which there were multiple possible fingerings. Bottom: The same stimulus melody containing an altered pitch (circled) that was heard during the memory recognition test.}\]
During the memory recognition test, melodies from the perception and production learning conditions were presented as computer-generated MIDI recordings with 500-ms per quarter note interonset intervals (with no expressive timing variations), and with the same timbre as in the learning conditions. MIDI velocity was constant for all pitches. A single pitch alteration was placed in 50% of the melodies. Altered pitches were from the diatonic key established by each melody, maintained the melodic contour of the original melody, and remained within a major third of the original target pitch. Pitch alterations occurred in one of 8 different serial locations and never occurred on the first 3 pitches or the last pitch of a melody. Alterations were never repetitions of the preceding or following tone. The degree to which target pitches were primed on a sensory level within the preceding melodic context was controlled by ensuring that each altered pitch appeared equivalently or more often in the preceding context than the corresponding original pitch. Altered pitches were placed only on quarter notes, and were therefore always 500 ms in duration. Eighteen of the altered pitches were preceded by quarter notes and 12 were preceded by eighth notes. The altered pitches were aligned equally often with weakly accented metrical beats and with strongly accented beats, as determined by a four-tier metrical hierarchy (Lerdahl and Jackendoff 1983). Finally, altered pitches were designed to be produced by the same right-hand finger that was used to produce the original target pitch during learning, and original and altered pitches were distributed across fingers within the right hand. The sets of melodies assigned to the 2 learning conditions were matched on each of these features. An example of a melody and a pitch alteration is shown in Figure 1.

Participants
Participants were seated in a soundproof, electrically shielded chamber while EEG was recorded, and melodies were presented over headphones with the computer-generated recordings of the 12 originally learned melodies repeated 5 times and 60 unique altered melodies divided across 5 blocks. EEG was simultaneously recorded and participants were asked to identify whether or not each melody contained an incorrect pitch. At the beginning of each trial, a fixation cross appeared in the center of the computer screen, and after 2000 ± 500 ms, a melody was presented auditorily (melody notation was not shown during the memory recognition test). The fixation cross remained on the screen for the entire duration of the melody, and participants were instructed to fixate on the cross for the entire duration. Participants were instructed to avoid blinking and moving during the presentation of the melodies. After listening to each melody, participants indicated whether the melody contained an alteration (Yes/No) and how confident they were in their judgment using a Likert scale (adapted from Opacic et al. 2009), ranging from 1 (not sure at all) to 5 (very sure); 0 corresponded to “guessing.” No time limit was imposed for recognition or confidence responses. Participants were told that they could blink and relax before pressing a key to proceed to the next trial. The time interval between the end of the learning phase and the start of the recognition trials was ~5 min.

Memory Recognition Test

Following the learning phase, participants were presented over headphones with the computer-generated recordings of the 12 originally learned melodies repeated 5 times and 60 unique altered melodies divided across 5 blocks. EEG was simultaneously recorded and participants were asked to identify whether or not each melody contained an incorrect pitch. At the beginning of each trial, a fixation cross appeared in the center of the computer screen, and after 2000 ± 500 ms, a melody was presented auditorily (melody notation was not shown during the memory recognition test). The fixation cross remained on the screen for the entire duration of the melody, and participants were instructed to fixate on the cross for the entire duration. Participants were instructed to avoid blinking and moving during the presentation of the melodies. After listening to each melody, participants indicated whether the melody contained an alteration (Yes/No) and how confident they were in their judgment using a Likert scale (adapted from Opacic et al. 2009), ranging from 1 (not sure at all) to 5 (very sure); 0 corresponded to “guessing.” No time limit was imposed for recognition or confidence responses. Participants were told that they could blink and relax before pressing a key to proceed to the next trial. The time interval between the end of the learning phase and the start of the recognition trials was ~5 min.

Post-test

Participants then listened to each original melody (with no altered pitches) and indicated whether they had first learned the melody by listening to it or performing it (Listened/Performed), and their level of confidence in their judgment on the same confidence rating scale as was used in the memory test. Each melody was presented once, in different random orders for each participant. EEG activity was not recorded during the post-test.

Data Recording and Analysis

Behavioral data

Learning phase. Errors in pitch accuracy during the production learning condition were identified by computer comparison of pianists’ performances with the information in the notated musical score (Large 1993). Pitch omissions were counted as errors as well. Corrections (errors in which pianists stopped after an error and corrected) were excluded from error rate computations and analyzed separately.

Memory recognition test. Mean accuracy scores in the recognition test were analyzed using a 2 (learning condition) × 2 (target pitch)
repeated-measures analysis of variance (ANOVA). Response accuracy was coded categorically as either correct or incorrect. Recognition accuracy was also analyzed in terms of hits (correct identification of an altered melody) minus false alarms (incorrect identification of an original melody) scores with a one-way ANOVA (comparing the 2 learning conditions). Confidence ratings were evaluated with a 2 (learning condition) × 2 (target pitch) × 2 (response accuracy) repeated-measures ANOVA.

**Post-test.** Post-test data were analyzed in a one-way ANOVA on the proportion of melodies that were correctly identified in the production learning and perception learning conditions. A 2 (learning condition) × 2 (response accuracy) ANOVA on post-test confidence ratings was also conducted.

**EEG data.** EEG signals were analyzed using BrainVision Analyzer 2.0.2 (Brain Products GmbH). Electrodes were re-referenced offline to the average of all scalp electrodes. The EEG signals were bandpass-filtered between 1 and 30 Hz. Data were segmented into 600 ms epochs beginning 100 ms prior to the onset of the target pitch (altered pitch or contextually identical original pitch in the presented melodies) and terminating at the onset of the subsequent pitch. Artifact rejection was performed automatically using a ±50 μV rejection threshold at electrodes Fz, Cz, Pz, and Oz, as well as the horizontal and vertical electro-oculogram, and manually by removing any trials seemingly contaminated with eye movements or muscle activity on any of the electrodes. Artifacts were considered excessive when more than half of the trials from a given condition of the experiment exceeded the ±50 μV rejection threshold at electrodes Fz, Cz, Pz, Oz, or the horizontal or vertical electro-oculogram. Trials for which participants’ responses were incorrect were excluded from averages, leaving a mean of 20.9 trials (SD = 5.5) in the perception-altered condition, 23.2 (SD = 5.2) trials in the production-altered condition, 21.1 trials (SD = 5.2) in the perception-original condition, and 21.8 trials (SD = 4.7) in the production-original condition. Trial numbers were roughly equivalent across conditions; slight differences reflected the higher number of trials included in the ERP analysis for the production altered and original conditions compared with the perception altered and original conditions.

**Event-related potentials.** Average ERPs for each participant and each of the 4 experimental conditions were time-locked to the onset of the target pitch using EEG activity occurring up to 100 ms prior to the target pitch as a baseline. Mean ERP amplitudes were statistically evaluated at 9 topographical regions of interest (ROIs; see bottom middle subplot of Fig. 2): left anterior (F1, F3, F5, F7, AF3, AF7, AFF1h), right anterior (F2, F4, F6, F8, AF4, AF8, AFF2h), midline anterior (Fz), left central (C1, C3, C5, T7), right central (C2, C4, C6, T8), midline central (Cz), left posterior (P1, P3, P5, P7, PO3, PO7, PPO1h), right posterior (P2, P4, P6, P8, PO4, PO8, PPO2h), and midline posterior (Pz). Electrode ROIs were adapted from Miranda and Ullman (2007). Forty-millisecond time windows for statistical analysis of ERP components were centered on grand-averaged peak amplitude latencies as follows: 100–140 ms (labeled N100), 180–220 ms (labeled N200), 240–280 ms (labeled N400), 420–460 ms (labeled P300), and 420–460 ms (labeled LPC). Peak amplitude latencies were identified on the basis of previous research and visual inspection of the grand averages, and calculated by averaging peak amplitude latencies across midline electrodes Fz, Cz, and Pz.

Mean ERP component amplitudes were assessed in 3 levels of analysis following a procedure used by Miranda and Ullman (2007). The first-level analysis determined whether effects of independent variables differed significantly across scalp regions, the second-level analysis allowed us to identify the scalp region (single ROI or group of ROIs) where the component was most prominent, and the third-level analysis tested influences of independent variables on ERPs within the ROI(s) where the component was determined to be statistically maximal.

In the first-level analysis, ERP amplitudes at midline ROIs were tested in 2 × 2 × 3 repeated-measures ANOVAs with factors learning condition (perception, production), target pitch (altered, original), and position (anterior, central, posterior). Mean amplitudes at lateral ROIs were tested in 2 × 2 × 3 repeated-measures ANOVAs with factors learning condition (perception, production), target pitch (altered, original), hemisphere (right, left), and position (anterior, central, posterior). Only interactions involving one or both independent variables (learning condition, target pitch) and one or both scalp-distribution factors (hemisphere, position) that were determined to be significant in the first-level analysis are reported. In the second-level analysis, repeated-measures ANOVAs performed on only those factors involved in each significant first-level interaction. ROIs (midline or lateral) where components showed larger absolute voltages were analyzed. In the third-level analysis, repeated-measures ANOVAs that included learning condition and target pitch as factors were conducted on ROIs where the component was determined by the second-level analysis to be most prominent.

Scalp topographic maps showing ERP component distributions were generated by plotting amplitude values on the scalp. Activity was averaged across the time window used for the analysis of each component. Scalp topographic maps representing difference waves for each component were also generated by subtracting mean amplitudes corresponding to original pitches from mean amplitudes corresponding to altered pitches within the analysis time window for each component.

**Source localization.** Standardized low-resolution brain electromagnetic tomography (sLORETA) was used to compute cortical activity (source current density in μA/mm³) corresponding to ERP components that showed effects of learning condition. The sLORETA method is a standardized discrete, 3D distributed, linear, minimum norm solution to the inverse problem (Pascual-Marqui 2002), which has been validated in several simultaneous EEG/fMRI studies (Olbrich et al. 2009; Mobascher et al. 2009) and allows accurate localization of deep cortical structures, including the anterior cingulate cortex (Pizzagalli et al. 2001) and mesial temporal lobes (Zumsteg et al. 2006).

In the current implementation of sLORETA, computations were made in a realistic head model (Fuchs et al. 2002), using the MN152 template (Mazzotta et al. 2001), with the 3D solution space restricted to cortical gray matter, as determined by the probabilistic Talairach atlas (Lancaster et al. 2000). Standard electrode positions on the MN152 scalp were taken from Jurcak et al. (2007) and Oostenveld and Praamstra (2001). The intracerebral volume was partitioned in 6239 voxels at a 5-mm spatial resolution. Thus, sLORETA images represent the standardized electric activity at each voxel in neuroanatomical Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) space as the exact magnitude of the estimated current density. Source current densities for each participant corresponding to the perception of memory violations in previously produced (production-altered condition) melodies and source current densities corresponding to the perception of memory violations in previously perceived (perception-altered condition) melodies were averaged within the time windows of the N200, P300, and N400 using a voxel-wise randomization test of log F-ratios. sLORETA performed 5000 permutations of the randomized statistical nonparametric mapping (SnMP), and critical log F-ratios and significance values were corrected for multiple comparisons. Log F-ratio values for each voxel were thresholded based on a corrected significance threshold of P < 0.01 for the source localization of each of the ERP components.

**Results**

**Behavioral Results**

**Learning Phase**

Less than 1% of tones per performance in the production learning condition were produced erroneously (M pitch error rate per trial = 0.0097, SE = 0.0019). A mean of 95.5% of all performances contained no errors (SE = 1.3%), indicating that
participants performed the presented melodies with high accuracy. Corrections (pitch errors in which pianists stopped after an error and corrected) occurred in a mean of 3.7% of all performances (SE = 1.5%). The serial locations of errors produced during the learning phase rarely matched the serial locations of altered target pitches in the memory recognition test: Across all participants, melodies, and performances, errors were produced in only 0.3% of all possible opportunities for errors to match the locations of alterations, and corrections were produced in only 0.8% of all possible opportunities.

**Memory Recognition Test**

Analyses of mean recognition accuracy scores (Fig. 3) indicated a significant main effect of learning condition, $F_{1,19} = 5.05$, $P < 0.05$. Higher scores were achieved for melodies that had been produced ($M = 0.676$, SE = 0.040) compared with melodies that had only been perceived ($M = 0.611$, SE = 0.040). Years of piano instruction correlated positively with hits–false alarms for the production learning condition, $r_{(18)} = 0.58$, $P < 0.05$, and the perception learning condition, $r_{(18)} = 0.58$, $P < 0.05$.

Analyses of participants’ confidence ratings on the memory test (Fig. 3) revealed main effects of learning condition, $F_{1,19} = 18.16$, $P < 0.001$, of target, $F_{1,19} = 10.06$, $P < 0.01$, and of response accuracy, $F_{1,19} = 117.48$, $P < 0.001$. Participants indicated higher confidence when identifying produced melodies ($M = 3.61$, SE = 0.094) compared with perceived melodies ($M = 3.27$, SE = 0.108). They also indicated higher confidence when the identified melody contained an altered pitch ($M = 3.59$, SE = 0.095) compared with an original pitch ($M = 3.29$, SE = 0.109). Finally, participants indicated higher confidence for correct responses ($M = 3.97$, SE = 0.070) than for incorrect responses ($M = 2.91$, SE = 0.096). Learning condition showed a marginally significant interaction with accuracy, $F_{1,19} = 3.18$, $P = 0.09$. There were no other significant interactions between conditions.
Post-test Analyses of post-test accuracy revealed a significant main effect of learning condition, $F_{1,19} = 7.33, P < 0.05$. Participants were more accurate at remembering how they had first learned a melody when the melody was learned by production ($M = 0.675, SE = 0.055$) compared with when it was learned by perception ($M = 0.541, SE = 0.038$).

Analysis of post-test confidence ratings (Fig. 3) indicated a significant main effect of response accuracy, $F_{1,19} = 13.94, P < 0.01$, which interacted significantly with learning condition, $F_{1,19} = 11.79, P < 0.005$. Participants rated their confidence level for only the production condition melodies as higher for correctly identified melodies compared with incorrectly identified melodies (Tukey HSD = 0.67, $\alpha = 0.05$). This was not the case for the perception condition confidence ratings. There was no main effect of learning condition on confidence ratings in the post-test ($P = 0.76$).

**ERP Results**

Figure 2 shows grand-averaged ERP waveforms time-locked to target pitches averaged across correct response trials. Visual inspection revealed an auditory P1–N1–P2 complex elicited by both the altered and original target pitches in both learning conditions. Subsequent ERP components elicited by altered targets included an early negative component maximal around 180–220 ms (labeled N200), a later negative component around 240–280 ms (labeled N400), a positive component maximal around 270–310 ms (labeled P300), and a later positive maximal around 420–460 ms (labeled LPC). Scalp topographies corresponding to time ranges for altered pitches and altered/original voltage differences are shown in Figure 4.
Negative Components

Analysis of amplitudes within the N100 time window at midline ROIs yielded a significant main effect of position, $F_{2,38} = 13.37, P < 0.001$: The N100 was more prominent at anterior ROIs than at central and posterior ROIs (Tukey HSD = 0.44, $\alpha = 0.05$). There were no other significant main effects or interactions (all $P$s > 0.15).

Analysis of amplitudes within the N200 time window at midline ROIs yielded a significant three-way interaction between learning condition, target pitch, and position variables, $F_{2,38} = 8.50, P < 0.001$. Second-level analysis (see Materials and Methods) of the three-way interaction showed a significant interaction between target pitch and position, $F_{2,38} = 6.10, P = 0.005$. Altered pitches elicited larger negative potentials than original pitches at both anterior and central ROIs (Tukey HSD = 0.71, $\alpha = 0.05$). Anterior and central ROIs were selected as the target region for third-level analysis with the factors learning condition, target pitch, and anterior–central ROI position (see Fig. 5). There was a main effect of target pitch on N200 amplitudes, $F_{1,19} = 21.49, P < 0.001$, and a significant interaction between learning condition and target, $F_{1,19} = 6.93, P < 0.05$. The amplitude of the N200 was larger (more negative) for the altered pitches than for the original pitches, and this difference was greater for the production learning condition than for the perception learning condition (Tukey HSD = 0.63, $\alpha = 0.05$). There was no significant main effect of position (anterior/central), $F_{1,19} = 0.77, P = 0.39$, and there were no other significant main effects or interactions (all $P$s > 0.14).

Analysis of mean amplitudes in the N400 time range at lateral ROIs showed a significant interaction between learning condition and position, $F_{2,38} = 5.72, P < 0.01$, as well as a significant interaction between target pitch and position, $F_{2,38} = 14.97, P < 0.001$. Second-level analysis of the interaction between learning condition and position revealed a main effect of position, $F_{2,38} = 23.04, P < 0.001$. Posterior ROIs showed a larger negativity than anterior and central ROIs (Tukey HSD = 0.46, $\alpha = 0.05$). Second-level analysis of the interaction between target pitch and position also revealed a main effect of position, $F_{2,38} = 23.04, P < 0.001$. Posterior ROIs showed a larger negativity than anterior and central ROIs (Tukey HSD = 0.46, $\alpha = 0.05$). Third-level analysis on posterior ROIs revealed a significant main effect of learning condition, $F_{1,19} = 6.38, P < 0.05$. Produced target pitches elicited a significantly larger (more negative) N400 than perceived target pitches (Fig. 5). There was also a significant main effect of target pitch, $F_{1,19} = 16.51, P < 0.001$. Altered pitches elicited a larger (more negative) N400 than original pitches. There was a marginal main effect of

Figure 4. Top: Voltage (in $\mu$V) scalp topographies for altered pitches by learning condition (perception/production). Bottom: Voltage (in $\mu$V) scalp topographies showing the distribution of the difference between original and altered pitch conditions. For both altered pitch topographies and difference topographies, activity averaged over 40 ms surrounding each component’s grand-averaged peak is shown (N200, 180–220 ms; P300, 270–310 ms; N400, 240–280 ms; LPC, 420–460 ms).
hémisphère dans les régions ROIs postérieures, $F_{1,19} = 3.24$, $P = 0.09$. La région ROI postérieure latéralisée à droite montrait des amplitudes négatives plus grandes que la région ROI postérieure latéralisée à gauche. Les hémisphères ont montré également une interaction marginale significative avec le conditionnement de l'apprentissage, $F_{1,19} = 3.34$, $P = 0.08$. Les cibles produites ont tendance à susciter des réponses négatives plus fortes aux régions ROI latérales à gauche que perçues. Il n'y avait pas d'autres effets principaux ou interactions significatifs (tous $P$s > 0.18). Les moyennes individuelles de l'un des 2 participants à gauche ont montré la même métaillisation de N400 que les moyennes de grandeur, tandis que les autres moyennes individuelles de l'autre participant à gauche n'ont montré aucune métaillisation.

**Positive Components**

L'analyse des amplitudes au sein des régions ROI médianes au sein du temps de component P300 a montré une interaction significative entre la position de la cible et le conditionnement de l'apprentissage, $F_{2,38} = 14.88$, $P < 0.001$, ainsi qu'une interaction marginale significative entre la condition d'apprentissage et la position, $F_{2,38} = 2.97$, $P = 0.06$. L'analyse de deuxième niveau de l'interaction entre la position de la cible et la position indiquait une main effet significative de la position. La positivité était la plus prononcée au niveau anterior ROI (Tukey HSD $= 0.46$, $\alpha = 0.05$). L'analyse de deuxième niveau de l'interaction entre la condition d'apprentissage et la position indiquait également un effet principal significatif de la position, $F_{2,38} = 31.80$, $P < 0.001$. La positivité était la plus prononcée au niveau anterior ROI (Tukey HSD $= 0.46$, $\alpha = 0.05$). L'analyse de troisième niveau sur les ROIs antérieurs révèle un effet principal significatif de la position, $F_{1,19} = 19.84$, $P < 0.001$. On a produit des amplitudes plus grandes concernant le temps de component P300 que concernant les cibles perçues (Fig. 5). Il n'y avait pas d'autres effets principaux ou interactions significatifs (tous $P$s > 0.88).

Au sein du temps de component LPC, il y avait une interaction significative entre la position de la cible et le conditionnement de l'apprentissage, $F_{2,38} = 5.15$, $P < 0.05$. L'analyse de deuxième niveau de l'interaction entre la position de la cible et la position indiquait une main effet significatif de la position, $F_{2,38} = 7.94$, $P < 0.001$. La LPC était la plus prononcée au niveau posterior ROI. L'analyse de troisième niveau sur les ROIs posterior révèle un effet principal significatif de la position de la cible, $F_{1,19} = 17.75$, $P < 0.001$. La LPC était plus grande pour les cibles modifiées que pour les cibles originales (Fig. 5). Il n'y avait pas d'autres effets principaux ou interactions significatifs (tous $P$s > 0.58).

*Figure 5.* Mean amplitude values of correct response grand-averaged event-related potentials (ERPs) that were elicited by target pitches. Amplitudes from third-level ERP analysis are shown. These amplitudes were pooled across electrodes within a priori ROIs for which the component was statistically determined to be most prominent (the anterior and central midline ROIs for the N200, anterior midline ROI for the P300, posterior lateral ROIs for the N400, and posterior midline ROI for the LPC). *$P < 0.05$. 

**Figure 5.** Mean amplitude values of correct response grand-averaged event-related potentials (ERPs) that were elicited by target pitches. Amplitudes from third-level ERP analysis are shown. These amplitudes were pooled across electrodes within a priori ROIs for which the component was statistically determined to be most prominent (the anterior and central midline ROIs for the N200, anterior midline ROI for the P300, posterior lateral ROIs for the N400, and posterior midline ROI for the LPC). *$P < 0.05$. 

Sensorimotor Learning Enhances Expectations
Correlations of ERPs and Behavioral Measures

Correlation Between ERP Amplitudes and Recognition Accuracy

Hits—false alarms scores corresponding to the production learning condition showed marginally significant correlations with mean amplitudes in the production learning condition within the time ranges of the N200, \( r_{(18)} = -0.37, P = 0.10 \); the P300, \( r_{(18)} = 0.37, P = 0.10 \); and the N400, \( r_{(18)} = -0.43, P = 0.06 \). This was also observed for the amplitudes within the time range of the N200 for the perception learning condition, \( r_{(18)} = -0.41, P = 0.07 \). No other component amplitudes correlated with accuracy scores in the memory task for perception and production conditions.

Correlation Between ERP Amplitudes and Confidence Ratings

The amplitude of the P300 elicited by altered pitches for previously produced melodies positively correlated with the related confidence ratings in the memory recognition task, \( r_{(18)} = 0.44, P = 0.05 \), while this was not the case for the perception condition, \( r_{(18)} = 0.05, P = 0.84 \). Participants demonstrating larger P300 amplitudes in response to altered pitches in previously produced melodies rated higher levels of confidence in their memory recognition judgments for produced melodies containing altered pitches (Fig. 6). No other component amplitudes correlated significantly with confidence ratings in the memory task.

Source Localization Results

Figure 7 shows differences in source current density activity elicited by altered target pitches in previously produced melodies compared with previously perceived melodies. Differences are shown in terms of log \( F \)-ratios corresponding to the time ranges of ERP responses that showed effects of the learning condition. Brain regions showing increased activity in the production-altered condition compared with the perception-altered condition within the time range of the N200, P300, and N400 are shown in Table 1, and brain regions showing increased activity for the perception-altered condition compared with the production-altered condition within the time ranges of the N200, P300, and N400 are shown in Table 2.

![Figure 6. Correlation of mean P300 amplitudes elicited by altered pitches in previously produced melodies with recognition confidence ratings for the production-altered condition.](http://cercor.oxfordjournals.org/)

Motor preparation areas showed consistently stronger activation for the production-altered condition than the perception-altered condition across the N200, P300, and N400 time ranges. The middle (BA 6; peak MNI coordinates: \( x = -25, y = 15, z = 60 \), \( F \)-ratio = 1.46, \( P < 0.01 \)) and medial (BA 8; peak MNI coordinates \( x = 0, y = 40, z = 45 \), \( F \)-ratio = 1.61, \( P < 0.01 \)) frontal gyri showed largest activation increases for the production condition compared with the perception condition within the timeframe of the N200. The same brain areas showed significantly greater contributions to the generation of the P300 and N400 potentials for the production condition compared with the perception condition.

Increases in activation for the production condition compared with the perception condition were more prominent in the left hemisphere than the right during the time ranges of both the N200 and P300. In particular, the left inferior frontal gyrus (BA 47) showed selective engagement in the early processing of altered pitches in previously produced melodies (peak MNI coordinates within the time range of the N200: \( x = -20, y = -30, z = -5 \), \( F \)-ratio = 1.03, \( P < 0.01 \)). Leftward primary motor cortex (precentral gyrus; BA 4) was also activated more strongly for the production condition within the time ranges of the P300 (peak MNI coordinates: \( x = -25, y = -15, z = 50 \), \( F \)-ratio = 1.14, \( P < 0.01 \)) and the N400 (peak MNI coordinates: \( x = 20, y = -25, z = 55 \), \( F \)-ratio = 1.32, \( P < 0.01 \)).

The anterior cingulate has previously been identified as one of several generators contributing to auditory N200 and P300 components. Within the time range of the P300, the anterior cingulate cortex (BA 24; peak MNI coordinates: \( x = -10, y = 5, z = 45 \), \( F \)-ratio = 1.26, \( P < 0.01 \)); BA 32; peak MNI coordinates: \( x = 0, y = 50, z = 0 \), \( F \)-ratio = 1.15, \( P < 0.01 \)) showed largest increases in activation for the production-altered condition compared with the perception-altered condition. The anterior cingulate also contributed significantly to the N200 (peak MNI coordinates \( x = -10, y = 35, z = -5 \), \( F \)-ratio = 1.05, \( P < 0.01 \)) and the N400 (peak MNI coordinates: \( x = -15, y = 35, z = 20 \), \( F \)-ratio = 1.01, \( P < 0.01 \)). Whereas increases in activation during the timeframe of the N200 for the production condition tended to be more focal, the P300, and especially the N400, were characterized by increases in a widely distributed network of generators, with structures in frontal, temporal, and parietal areas demonstrating enhanced responses to memory violations in previously produced melodies.

The right supramarginal and middle temporal gyri, as well as the inferior parietal lobule, were significantly more active during the perception-altered condition than the production-altered condition within the N200 and P300 time ranges. These effects were strongest within the time range of the N200 in the supramarginal gyrus (BA 40; peak MNI coordinates: \( x = 50, y = -50, z = 20 \), \( F \)-ratio = 1.39, \( P < 0.01 \)).

Discussion

The current study examined the neural correlates of memory recognition of musical melodies learned by production (movements accompanied by auditory feedback) or by perception. The results support our principal hypothesis: amplified neural electrophysiological potentials arising from cortical motor structures in response to memory violations were associated with more accurate recognition of the violations in previously produced melodies in comparison to previously perceived
melodies. Motor planning areas showed greater involvement in the early detection of pitch alterations, associated with the N200 potential, and premotor and primary motor regions were implicated in later cognitive responses to the deviant pitches, associated with P300 and N400 responses. These findings suggest that auditory–motor interactions within cortex contribute to the benefits afforded by production experience on recognition memory. The findings also support the notion that listeners’ memory-based expectations influence the recognition of previously produced and perceived auditory sequences, consistent with theories of predictive motor simulation (Schubotz 2007). We first consider the behavioral findings, followed by a discussion of ERP and source localization findings.

**Behavioral Findings**

**Production Learning Increases Recognition of Memory Violations**

Pianists’ learning of melodies by production increased subsequent auditory recognition of memory-violating pitch alterations in the melodies, compared with melodies that had been learned by perception-only. Previously, perceivers have been shown to recognize melodies learned by production among nonlearned distracters at higher rates than melodies learned by perception (Brown and Palmer 2012). The current finding extends this result, showing that production learning enhances subsequent recognition of single pitch alterations, consistent with a “production advantage” in memory for auditory stimuli.
In the domain of language, production typically increases recognition rates by about 10% when stimuli are presented visually at test (MacLeod et al. 2010). The musical stimuli in the current study showed smaller effects (a 4% increase for production), possibly due to the difficulty of the recognition task in comparison to speech studies, although the current effects are on par with previous studies on auditory–motor learning of music (Finney and Palmer 2003; Brown and Palmer 2012). Changes in musical and linguistic stimuli may also contribute to variability in the magnitude of memory enhancement observed following production. For example, single words are capable of conveying meaning via semantics, whereas meaning in music, which is a matter of debate, is typically conveyed through a series of temporally proximal auditory events.

Close coupling of movements and auditory feedback, on which the production effect on memory may hinge, is a common feature across instances of sound production. Associations between speech-like productions and resulting sounds emerge within the first year of infancy (Kuhl and Meltzoff 1996), and manipulations of auditory feedback during adults’ vocal productions yields compensatory motor adjustments (Kawahara 1994), indicating strong links between auditory feedback and movements in language speakers. Memory for music following production may also depend on the close coupling of actions with auditory feedback, as production learning under conditions in which auditory feedback is based on recordings of other performers or on computer-generated (constant pitch velocity) sounds does not yield improved recognition during subsequent perception compared with self-generated auditory feedback (Brown and Palmer 2012). Auditory–motor learning of melodies may constitute a dual load task by comparison to auditory-only learning, as musicians must learn and attend to not only the sequence of pitches comprising a melody, but also the unique sequence of movements required to produce the melody. A dual load attentional learning task would have predicted inferior recognition memory for previously produced melodies compared with previously perceived melodies. The current findings instead favor a framework in which an integrated auditory–motor memory trace (e.g., Hommel et al. 2001) is more deeply encoded and/or more easily cued for retrieval than a purely auditory memory trace. Indeed, auditory information may be processed more deeply during performance than during perception, in order to ensure the accuracy of the auditory feedback associated with one’s movements (a levels-of-processing account of memory encoding; Craik and Lockhart 1972).

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brain region</th>
<th>N200</th>
<th>P300</th>
<th>N400</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>midFG</td>
<td>(25, 20, 60)</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>(20, 10, 65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medFG</td>
<td>(0, 40, 45)</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>(0, 5, 50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC</td>
<td>(25, 15, 60)</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>(–30, –10, 50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFG</td>
<td>(25, 40, 10)</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>(0, 50, 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>precuneus</td>
<td>(0, –20, 30, –5)</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>(0, –25, 35)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: MNI coordinates of peak increases in standardized current density activity elicited by altered pitches for the production condition compared with the perception condition within the time ranges of the N200, P300, and N400, and peak log F-ratio values significant at P < 0.01, corrected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brain region</th>
<th>N200</th>
<th>P300</th>
<th>N400</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>preCG</td>
<td>(25, –15, 50)</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>(–25, –15, 50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>postCG</td>
<td>(0, –50, 20)</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>(–50, –20, 55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFG</td>
<td>(10, 10, 55)</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>(5, 5, 70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DGG</td>
<td>(–5, 50, –20)</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>(–5, 50, 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CG</td>
<td>(5, 0, 45)</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>(20, –25, 45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFG</td>
<td>(–50, –75, –5)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>(0, –25, 40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paraCL</td>
<td>(–5, –25)</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>(–5, –30, 45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTG</td>
<td>(–65, –40, –20)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>(–40, –45, 20)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: MNI coordinates of peak decreases in standardized current density activity elicited by altered pitches for the production condition compared with the perception condition within the time ranges of the N200, P300, and N400, and peak log F-ratio values significant at P < 0.01, corrected.

### Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brain region</th>
<th>N200</th>
<th>P300</th>
<th>N400</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SMG</td>
<td>(50, –50, 20)</td>
<td>–1.19</td>
<td>(55, –50, 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STG</td>
<td>(60, –60, 20)</td>
<td>–1.42</td>
<td>(50, –45, 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPL</td>
<td>(65, –45, 25)</td>
<td>–1.28</td>
<td>(55, –45, 25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTG</td>
<td>(60, –60, 10)</td>
<td>–1.11</td>
<td>(60, –60, 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insula</td>
<td>(40, –45, 20)</td>
<td>–0.94</td>
<td>(40, –45, 20)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: MNI coordinates of peak decreases in standardized current density activity elicited by altered pitches for the production condition compared with the perception condition within the time ranges of the N200, P300, and N400, and peak log F-ratio values significant at P < 0.01, corrected.
sensorimotor memories encoded during the production learning condition were at least partially explicit, and mirrors the finding from the language literature that memory for whether a word has been studied by reading it aloud or reading it silently is greater for words that are learned by production, that is, reading aloud (Ozbuk et al. 2012). Thus, pianists were not only able to remember “what” they learned, but also “how” they learned it, suggesting that specific episodic information was encoded during the learning phase, particularly during production learning. Production effects in the domain of language have suggested a privileged role of recollection or episodic memory over familiarity processes during recognition, as memory for produced words is enhanced on explicit but not implicit memory tests (MacDonald and MacLeod 1998). However, studies using remember/know judgments and the receiver operating characteristic procedure reveal influences of both recollection and familiarity (Ozbuk et al. 2012). Taken together, prior and current findings support the domain generality of enhanced auditory recognition of self-produced auditory events, and suggest that increases in recognition accuracy can be attributed to multiple memory mechanisms.

**EEG Findings**

**N200 Response to Memory Violations in Produced and Perceived Melodies**

Memory-violating pitches in melodies learned by production and perception elicited the N200 ERP component, and production learning modulated the amplitude of this component: A larger N200 response was observed for memory violations in previously produced melodies compared with previously perceived melodies. Enlarged N200 amplitudes following production suggest a greater mismatch between auditorily presented deviants and production-based memory traces, compared with perception-based memory traces. The N200 response was associated with increased neural activation in frontal motor preparation regions including premotor and supplementary motor regions, as well as the anterior cingulate, left inferior frontal gyrus, and left precuneus. Motor preparation regions have been associated with the generation (Deiber et al. 1998), learning (Pau et al. 2013), and imagery (Lotze et al. 1999) of movement sequences, and, in tandem with the inferior frontal gyrus, auditory–motor integration (Baumann et al. 2005; Bangert et al. 2006; Lahav et al. 2007). The precuneus is activated while imagining sequences of finger taps and other types of movements (Hanakawa et al. 2003; Malouin et al. 2003), and may contribute to episodic memory retrieval, as it is engaged in processing old compared with new sentences (Tulving et al. 1994) and episodic compared with semantic memory for melodies (Platel et al. 2003). Precuneus activity is additionally associated with self-cognition, particularly in reference to autobiographical memories (Addis et al. 2007), and action simulation of oneself versus others (Ruby and Decety 2001), which could indicate greater self-related activation for a situation where one is more actively involved (performing) compared with just perceiving. The anterior cingulate has been linked to motor and perceptual error detection, and is involved in the generation of early negative potentials associated with motor errors (Gehring et al. 2012). One recent study showed anterior cingulate activation during the perception of dissonant pitch changes in recently performed musical scales, suggesting a potential role of this region in perceptual error detection in performed music (Maidhof et al. 2009).

The fronto-parietal network associated with the N200 may have aided the comparison of newly formed auditory percepts with sensorimotor stimulus representations stored in memory. Left-lateralized increases in activation for the production condition may reflect participants’ right-hand learning of melodies. Whereas the response to memory violations in previously produced melodies was characterized by increases in activation in motor areas, memory violations in previously perceived melodies elicited increases in supramarginal, superior temporal, and middle temporal regions within the time range of the N200. Effects were strongest within the supramarginal and superior temporal gyri, regions implicated in pitch perception and short-term memory (Zatorre et al. 2002; Gaab et al. 2003; Schönwiesner et al. 2007). Together, these findings point toward a greater role of motor planning regions in perceptual comparisons involving sensorimotor memory traces, and a greater role of auditory regions in comparisons involving auditory-only memory traces. Networks underlying responses to memory violations in the current study resemble the anterodorsal stream described by Rauschecker and Scott (2009), which comprises premotor, parietal, and sensory regions. Our findings support a bidirectional pathway model of sensorimotor integration, in which perceptual and motor representations interact via an anterodorsal pathway (Rauschecker 2011).

**Role of Predictive Processing in the “Production Effect” on Memory**

Electrophysiological measures within the time range of the N200 did not differentiate originally learned target pitches on the basis of learning condition. This pattern of responses contrasts with the differential processing of altered pitches (i.e., memory violations) within the time frame of the N200, which showed larger amplitudes for previously produced melodies than previously perceived melodies. If learning condition alone were driving the ERP effects, we would expect a main effect of learning on N200 amplitudes. However, an interaction effect was observed, which suggests that participants predicted, or expected, upcoming pitches while listening to melodies during the memory recognition test, with the prediction processes differing across learning conditions. Pitch that matched participants’ memory traces (and were therefore predicted) showed no influences of learning condition, whereas pitches that violated participants’ memory traces (and were therefore unpredicted) elicited an N200 potential. This finding fits with theories of predictive processing during perception, which propose that correctly predicted events are of little informational value to perceivers, and are therefore processed less than unpredicted events (Friston 2012).

Neural models of sensorimotor prediction propose that supplementary motor and premotor areas generate an efferent copy of a predicted movement, which is passed to parietal and temporal association cortices during auditory perception (Schubotz and von Cramon 2003; Hagard and Whitford 2004; Rauschecker and Scott 2009). One implication of such forward models is that the recognition of memory-violating pitches may involve not just one, but 2 mismatch comparisons (a pitch mismatch and a movement mismatch). The current findings inform models of motor prediction by suggesting that top-down motor predictions may interface with bottom-up sensory information in premotor or supplementary motor...
areas, which were most strongly activated within the time range of the N200 in the production condition compared with the perception condition.

A major question regarding pitch prediction mechanisms during music perception concerns whether predictions arise from knowledge of specific tone sequences (veridical memory), from sensory information stored in short-term memory (sensory memory), or from more general knowledge of a given musical system (schematic memory). Crucially, pitch alterations in the current study were diatonic (in-key) tones, which had occurred previously in the melody, and therefore deviated only from veridical memory representations, and not from rule-based pitch schemas or sensory memory traces. These diatonic tones should therefore not give rise to violations based on predictive processes related to cognitive tonal expectancies or sensory dissonance. Violations of schematic pitch expectations in musical pitch sequences elicit early anterior negative ERPs (e.g., the early right anterior negativity [ERAN] and right anterior temporal negativity [RATN]), even when the violating pitches do not create sensory dissonance, suggesting that cognitive, rule-based expectancies are active during music perception (Koelsch et al. 2007; Marmel et al. 2011). Diatonicity of pitch alterations in the current study would minimize contributions of ERAN and/or RATN potentials. As each alteration was unique within the context of the melody in which it appeared, effects also cannot be due to the learning of target pitch locations or other information. Scalp distributions of the early negative components elicited by schematically violating pitches are typically right-lateralized (Patel et al. 1998; Koelsch et al. 2000, 2005). The negativity elicited in the current experiment showed no rightward lateralization, further suggesting the absence of ERAN and/or RATN potentials.

The mismatch negativity (MMN), which was initially (Nätänen and Picton 1986), and is still sometimes (Patel and Azzam 2005), referred to as the N2a subcomponent of the N200, has often been used to index mechanisms underpinning sensory memory. Auditory oddball investigations have shown that the MMN is elicited by infrequent pitches within an auditory context (Sams et al. 1985). However, the N200 in the current study likely comprised N2b and N2c subcomponents (Pritchard et al. 1991), with minimal contributions of the MMN, for several reasons. First, the memory-violating pitch alterations in the current study appeared in the preceding melodic context more often on average than the corresponding contextually identical original pitches. Therefore, the altered pitches were “primed” by the melodic context more strongly than the original pitches. Consequently, the early negativity observed in response to altered pitches cannot be due to the deviance of altered pitches from an invariant melodic context or from sensory memory traces. Second, the negativity elicited by diatonically altered pitches in the current study was maximal at midline electrodes, whereas the MMN elicited by irregular pitches is typically right-lateralized (Koelsch et al. 2001; Koelsch 2009). In agreement with the current findings, Miranda and Ullman (2007) report a negativity maximal at midline electrode sites elicited by diatonic alterations in familiar melodies; the negativity elicited by nondiatonic alterations was not maximal at the midline. Third, whereas the auditory MMN is thought to be generated by predominantly auditory sensory areas, including auditory cortex (Koelsch 2009; Näätänen et al. 2001), increases in N200 amplitudes in the current study corresponded to decreases in activity within auditory sensory regions. Thus, the current findings indicate that knowledge of specific sensorimotor pitch sequences can play a role in generating predictions during perception, in the absence of schematic and sensory violations, and with no overt movements accompanying perception.

Production Learning Enhances P300 and N400 Responses to Memory Violations

Amplitudes of P300 and N400 potentials following the N200 were also enhanced by production learning compared with perception learning, and increased P300 amplitudes tended to associate with greater recognition accuracy and confidence in the production condition. Larger P300 and N400 responses to memory violations than original pitches fit with a predictive view of neural information processing, in which it is important that memory violations be attended to and encoded, in order for learning to take place (Friston and Stephan 2007).

The superior frontal gyrus, cingulate gyrus, motor planning, and primary motor areas showed strongest responses to memory violations in previously produced melodies than previously perceived melodies within the time range of the P300. Increased activation of the precentral gyrus, which contains the primary motor cortex, within the time range of the P300 for the production condition compared with the perception condition, is suggestive of motor imagery processes, as mental imagery of finger and hand movements is associated with increased primary motor cortex activation (Lotze et al. 1999; Garrido-de-la-Peña et al. 2008). Also supporting a motor imagery account of the P300 is the finding that amplitudes within the P300 time range increased not only in response to memory violations, but also to original pitches. Motor representations of music learned by production are potentially reactivated by listening-only (cf. Bangert et al. 2001; Bangert and Altenmüller 2003; D’Ausilio et al. 2004; Lahav et al. 2007), and by auditory imagery of familiar tunes (Halpern and Zatorre 1999; Leaver et al. 2009). However, co-occurring anteriorly distributed N200 and P300 potentials have together been termed the “distraction potential,” because they appear to coincide with longer response times to visual stimuli in cross-modal auditory distractor tasks (Escera and Corral 2007), as well as autonomic nervous system responses such as heart rate deceleration and decreases in skin conductance (Lyytinen et al. 1992). The frontal regions activated within the time range of the P300 are consistent with networks activated during attentional orienting (Peelen et al. 2004), supporting an interpretation of the P300 as reflecting stimulus-driven shifts of auditory attention following unexpected sounds (Schröger and Wolff 1998; Escera et al. 2002; Rinne et al. 2006). Thus, the current findings are consistent with both motor imagery and attention capture accounts of the P300.

The finding that memory violations, as well as original pitches, elicited a larger N400 for previously produced melodies than for previously perceived melodies suggests that the produced melodic contexts were more familiar to participants. (It may appear from the grand averages that the N400 component represents the negative end of the P300 dipole. However, the observed N400 closely resembles the N400 previously reported to be elicited by veridical pitch expectancy violations in familiar music during listening, in terms of both latency and scalp distribution (Besson and Faita 1994; Miranda and Ullman 2007). The observed N400 was also maximal
such that expert musicians demonstrate more priming of memories may develop over time with practice (Jäncke 2012), tended to be associated with larger N200 responses to memory violations. Higher recognition accuracy, in turn, of musical instruction correlated with improved detection of differences in neural auditory–motor interactions across production tasks varying in complexity, and test how these differences relate to memory recognition mechanisms.

Response-Related Late Posterior Positivity
Memory-violating pitches in the current experiment also elicited a late posterior positive potential showing no influences of learning condition. As this positive potential was maximal at latencies more than 100 ms following the preceding anterior pitch, we interpret this potential as an LPC (as opposed to the P3b subcomponent of the P300; Squires et al. 1975). Posterior positive potentials tend to be elicited when deviant stimuli are task-relevant or response-dependent (Snyder and Hillyard 1976; Pritchard 1981), and may reflect the updating of working memory representations (context updating theory; Donchin 1981; Donchin and Coles 1988; Polich 2007). For example, a late posterior positivity was observed when participants were asked to detect altered pitches in perceived musical scales, but not when told to continue performing following an altered feedback pitch during the performance of pitch scales on a musical instrument (Maidhof et al. 2009). The LPC elicited by altered pitches in the previously produced and the previously perceived melodies may indicate participants’ detection of altered (memory-violating) pitches in the memory task. The finding that LPC amplitudes did not depend on learning modality is consistent with the view that late posterior positive potentials depend on the task relevance of a stimulus (passive listening versus task-oriented listening), and not on the degree of deviation of the perceived stimulus from memory traces.

Relationship Between Musical Training and Effects of Production Experience on Memory
Our musician participants showed a positive association between recognition accuracy and musical training: More years of musical instruction correlated with improved detection of memory violations. Higher recognition accuracy, in turn, tended to be associated with larger N200 responses to memory violations. It has been suggested that auditory–motor associations may develop over time with practice (Jäncke 2012), such that expert musicians demonstrate more priming of motor responses than novices (Lappe et al. 2008). As the current study suggests motor activation as one mechanism driving the production effect, one might expect effects of production experience on recognition memory to differ across musical skill levels, depending on the state of the learned auditory–motor associations. One musical feature that engages the motor system, even when the music is novel or unfamiliar, is the musical beat, or tactus (Grahn and Brett 2007). In the case of rhythm and meter perception, musical training appears to have only moderate influences on motor activity (Chen et al. 2008), but embodiment of the musical beat or groove could perhaps aid memory when movements are aligned with self-generated auditory signals. Future investigations could explore individual differences in neural auditory–motor interactions across production tasks varying in complexity, and test how these differences relate to memory recognition mechanisms.

Conclusions
Our findings shed new light on links between production and perception by identifying for the first time neural correlates of the “production advantage” in memory recognition. Production experience increased recognition of learned musical melodies above and beyond recognition rates achieved following listening-only experience. Production influenced electrophysiological processing of subsequently perceived memory violations at early (N200) and later (P300, N400) stages of pitch processing. Motor planning as well as primary motor regions showed greater engagement during pitch processing following production learning, suggesting a role of motor memory or simulation processes in the production effect. The N400 potential, a marker of stimulus familiarity in recognition memory, was also enhanced by production learning, suggesting increased familiarity of previously produced melodies. These findings suggest a role of motor prediction mechanisms in the perception of previously produced sequences, and suggest that motor memories interface with pitch percepts as early as 200 ms following sound onsets in premotor regions of cortex. Thus, responses to perceived sounds may rely not only on veridical auditory information stored in memory, but also on the sensory modality through which the sound was encoded. Increased behavioral and neural responses to previously produced stimuli advance the ideas that production experience (e.g., typing, writing, speaking, and other modes of bimodal sensory expression) can be used as a strategy for memory enhancement, and that the motor system plays an active role during the encoding as well as the perception of previously learned items.

Funding
ERASMUS MUNDUS Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience exchange grant and National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to B.M., Canada Research Chairs grant and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council grant (NSERC 298173) to C.P., Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS UMR5292) to B.T.

Notes
We thank Alexandra Corneyllie, Tatiana Selchenkova, Frances Spidle, Sasha Ilanych, and Alexander Demos for their assistance. This work was conducted in the framework of the LabEx CeLyA (“Centre Lyonnais d’Acoustique,” ANR-10-LABX-60) and in the Sequence Production Lab, McGill University, Canada. Conflict of Interest: None declared.

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