

# Riesa Cassano-Coleman

[rcassan2@ur.rochester.edu](mailto:rcassan2@ur.rochester.edu)

<https://orcid.org/0009-0005-3238-9449>

## EDUCATION

---

**University of Rochester**, Rochester, NY August 2021 - present  
M.A. in Brain and Cognitive Sciences January 2024  
Ph.D. in Brain and Cognitive Sciences

**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ May 2021  
Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude* (GPA 3.827)  
Concentration in Neuroscience, Certificate in Engineering Biology

**Pittsford Mendon High School**, Pittsford, NY June 2017  
*Honors*: National Honor Society, National Merit Scholarship Finalist

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

---

**Cassano-Coleman, R.**, Izen, S., Piazza, E.A. (2024) Listeners integrate tonal context to perceive meaningful events in naturalistic music, regardless of training. Poster to be presented at *Psychonomics*, November 21-24.

**Cassano-Coleman, R.**, Lozano, C., Tagirisa, V., Jakubowski, K., Piazza, E. A. (2024). Quantifying the Influence of Acoustic and Emotional Features on Perceived Similarity of Popular Songs. Poster presented at the *Society for Music Perception and Cognition*, July 25-27.

**Cassano-Coleman, R.** (2024). Context and musical training impact event segmentation of naturalistic music. Talk presented at *Brain and Cognitive Sciences Colloquium series*, May 8.

Tagirisa, V., Lozano, C., **Cassano-Coleman, R.**, Jakubowski, K., Piazza, E. A. (2024). Investigating How Acoustic and Musical Features Impact Perceptual Similarity with a Novel Corpus of Popular Songs and Covers. Poster presented at *University of Rochester Undergraduate Research Exposition*, April 12.

**Cassano-Coleman, R.**, Cole, E., Jakubowski, K., Piazza, E. A. (2023). A Complex Relationship Between Emotional Features of Familiar Music and Evoked Autobiographical Memories. Poster presented at *Psychonomics*, November 16-19.

**Cassano, R.**, Cole, E., Jakubowski, K., Piazza, E. A. (2023). A Complex Relationship Between Emotional Features of Familiar Music and Evoked Autobiographical Memories. Talk presented at *University of Rochester Graduate Research Day*, October 20.

**Cassano, R.**, Cole, E., Jakubowski, K., Piazza, E. A. (2023). Quantifying the Influence of Musical Features on Perceptual Similarity of Popular Songs. Poster presented at *CogSci*, July 26-29.

Cole, E., **Cassano, R.**, Jakubowski, K., Piazza, E. A. (2023). Music as a cue for autobiographical memories: Pop songs versus cover versions. Poster presented at *University of Rochester Undergraduate Research Exposition*, April 14.

**Cassano, R.**, Cole, E., Jakubowski, K., Piazza, E. A. (2023). Quantifying the Influence of Musical Features on Listeners' Experiences of Popular Songs. Talk presented at the *UR/Eastman/Cornell/Buffalo Music Cognition Symposium*, February 18.

**Cassano, R.**, Williams, J., Jordan, M. C., Hasson, U., Piazza, E. A. (2022). Hierarchical processing during naturalistic music production and perception. Poster presented at the *Society for Music Perception and Cognition*, August 4-7.

Piazza, E. A., **Cassano, R.**, Jordan, M. C., Williams, J., Izen, S., & Hasson, U. (2021). A naturalistic approach to studying temporal processing during music performance. Talk presented at the *181<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*, November 29-December 3.

**Cassano, R.**, Williams, J., Jordan, M. C., Hasson, U., Piazza, E. A. (2021). Hierarchical processing of temporal information during naturalistic music production and perception. Poster presented at *17<sup>th</sup> Annual NeuroMusic Conference*, November 20.

## PUBLICATIONS AND THESES

Izen, S. C., **Cassano-Coleman, R. Y.**, & Piazza, E. A. (in preparation). Musical context facilitates efficient prediction, memory, and event segmentation in musicians and non-musicians.

Izen, S. C., **Cassano-Coleman, R. Y.**, & Piazza, E. A. (2023). Music as a Window into Real-World Communication. *Front. Psychol.*, *14*. DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1012839

**Cassano, R.** (2021). Processing Hierarchies and Shared Representations in the Brain During Naturalistic Piano Performance. (Undergraduate senior thesis.)

## TEACHING AND MENTORING

Teaching assistant:

- BCSC 260 Music and the Mind (Spring 2023, Spring 2024) (Instructor: Elise Piazza)

Undergraduates mentored:

- Elise Cole (Discover Grant, Summer 2022 – Summer 2023)
- Sab Lin (Summer 2023)
- Liliana Seoror (NSF REU, Summer 2023)
- Sangeetha Ramanuj (NSF REU, Summer 2023)

- Carmela Lozano (Summer 2023 – Summer 2024)
- Vahni Tagirisa (Summer 2023 – Fall 2024)

### SERVICE AND OUTREACH

---

- *Graduate student representative* on the graduate admission committee (Fall 2021 – Spring 2022)
- *Volunteer interviewer* for the Princeton Alumni Schools Committee in Rochester, NY (January 2022 – present)
- *Member* of the Board of Trustees of the Princeton Club of Rochester (April 2023 – 2026)
- *Volunteer presenter* for the Brain Awareness Campaign (Spring 2023), Science Teaching through Art (Spring 2024)

### SKILLS

---

*Programming:* Python and R; some experience with Java, MATLAB, Julia

*Experimental design:* PsychoPy and Pavlovia; Labvanced

*Version control:* GitHub