

# Spontaneous User Behavior in “Vocal” Queries for Music-Information Retrieval

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## **Abstract**

We report the findings of a study of spontaneous behavior involved in vocal queries for music-information retrieval (MIR) systems. Two conditions were investigated: reproducing music purely from long-term memory, and imitation after listening to the piece. When participants are allowed maximal freedom in the formation of queries, a range of behaviors is found. We first give a global view on the characteristics of music queries, then consider the effects of long- and short-term memory. Our aim is to show that an informed knowledge of human approaches to music-information retrieval can provide valuable insights into appropriate development of user-friendly, content-based access to digital music collections.

*Music Query: Methods, Models, and User Studies (Computing in Musicology 13), 129-146.*  
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