

**Cover image**

"Variation on the infinite monkey theorem". This photograph was taken at an exhibition held at Estuaire Nantes by composer/artist Céleste Boursier-Mougenot called "From Here to Ear", in which forty zebra finches were kept in an aviary with five electric guitars. Despite hitting the strings at random, given enough time the birds will perform an existing song. The picture illustrates the problem of defining music in the animal world. This theme issue focuses on what it takes to be musical, a precondition for music to arise. (Photo by Stéfan / flickr.com under Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 2.0 license.)

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