



YOUR HEARING, HEARING AID AND MUSIC ENJOYMENT

SPRING 2019 EDITION

Historically hearing aids were designed primarily to make speech sounds louder without regard to music appreciation. Yet, understanding speech and appreciating music are important for most people with hearing loss. Many of you have expressed to me that music has left your ears, but not your hearts or minds. Indeed, listening to music is a passion and for most it is essential to the enjoyment of life. Speech and music are very different. To understand speech, you must be able to hear sounds (e.g. s, sh, th) above 1,000 Hz. To hear music it is best to hear everything....to hear unadulterated sound across the full frequency spectrum especially the frequencies below 1000Hz. Also, music is much louder than speech.

Fortunately, present day hearing aids are very sophisticated. Hearing aids have the ability to replicate music precisely. Contemporary hearing aids are equipped with a music program which your audiologist will set up to maximize your enjoyment of music. Here are the steps I take to make sure your music program is set to optimize your music appreciation.

For best understanding speech in noise most hearing aids have noise reduction programs which reduce the sound of the microphone which is integral to your hearing aid. This feature is detrimental when used for music. When I set your music program I make sure to disable the noise reduction system to insure that you can hear the sounds which give music their important qualities.

There is nothing worse than having your hearing aid whistle or feedback. Your hearing aids are equipped with a feedback management circuit which prevents you from hearing the squeal of your own hearing aid. Sometimes this circuit can not distinguish between the whistling of your hearing aid and a harmonic or a musical instrument so I make sure to disable the feedback management circuit when I set up your music program.

Having issues with your music program, please schedule an appointment so we can make adjustments.



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