The Physics of the "Blues"

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Wednesday, October 30
7:00 P.M.
Annenberg Auditorium,
Snite Museum of Art

That physics and mathematics underlie music is well-known, for example in the design of musical instruments. However, when one delves more deeply into Western music, as an example, one can see physical explanations for many of the artistic directions taken by composers. In this lecture, illustrated with live music demonstrations, Dr. Gibson will discuss the evolution of musical scales, their physical basis and the impact on the art of music, with examples including the origin of the sumptuous "blue" notes that are rendered naturally on a horn, but cannot be played on a modern keyboard. By studying the physical basis of music, one confirms the intimate connection between art and science, and how creativity can thrive in the face of musical and mathematical constraints.

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