This paper describes two experiments of listener’s recognition of musical grouping based on performance expression, using the beginning of Beethoven’s eighth piano sonata, op. 13, “Pathetique”. We suppose that there are two kinds of listening schemata: (a) to prefer an accent to the beginning note of a group and (b) to prefer an arched change of loudness and tempo of a group. As a result, we succeeded in extracting three groups of listening type: Accent-respected group: those who have a strong (a) schema. Accent-phrasing-changed group: those who have a preference for (a) to (b), and Phrasing-respected group: those who prefer (b) to (a), with attention to inner voice. We also verified that (1) Accent-respected group listeners preferred rap music and rock music, and preferred to listen to music “at lively place” and “with friends” better than the Phrasing-respected group. (2) Phrasing-respected group listeners preferred Chopin and Bach and preferred to listen to music “alone” and “quietly” better than other groups.

Keywords: Musical grouping, Musical Preference, Musical expression. Accent-oriented grouping, Phrasing