

The new study was "beautifully designed," scientist Andrea Ravignani said. Ravignani works at a seal research center in Europe. He studies how animals respond to sounds. He has been trying to understand why music is so important to people.

## **Music To Their Ears**

Ravignani praised the way the study used the animal's own calls. Previous studies have used musical recordings, which are usually sounds the animals have never heard before.

"Everybody loves music. But we don't understand why," Ravignani said. Mathevon's study brings us closer to understanding why humans like music, simply by having another species for comparison, he said.

Mathevon plans to look at seal calls more closely. He will study conversations between females and between adults and their young.