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Introduction

- The field of music psychology has been the source of discussion as new research begins to uncover the powerful influence of music on emotion and experience.
- Zentner et al. (2008) aimed to decipher which emotive states are most and least often evoked by music, with the hopes of evaluating whether or not these emotional changes can be classified as specific emotions. Music-specific emotions became apparent.
- Laukka, Erola, Thingujam, Yamasaki, and Beller (2013) conducted a cross-cultural study comparing the emotional affect of pieces of music on individuals of various cultural backgrounds. They found that there was music-emotion recognition across cultures, but best within a given cultural group.
- The present research explored musical preferences from people of a diverse range of cultural backgrounds, looking for commonalities and differences in musical-emotional experience.

Method

- Seventy seven participants 31 males and 46 females ranging in age from 19 to 59, with a median age 23 were surveyed.

-Participants were selected from groups of students from Camosun College and the University of Victoria campuses, as well as the greater Victoria community.

-The participants came from 16 countries of origin, including Canada, China, El Salvador, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands, Russia, Taiwan, Ukraine, & Wales.

-Participants were given the Musical and Cultural Identity Questionnaire (MCIQ) and were asked to list 5 songs that made them feel a sense of “Home” and then were asked to rate one of the songs on 30 emotion terms using a five point Likert scale.

-The emotion terms were taken from the Zentner et al. study ranging from positive to negative emotions such as: happy, calm, proud, euphoric, sensual, meditative, energized, enthused, longing, touched, amused, brave, inspired, sad, agitated and melancholic(see handout for full list).

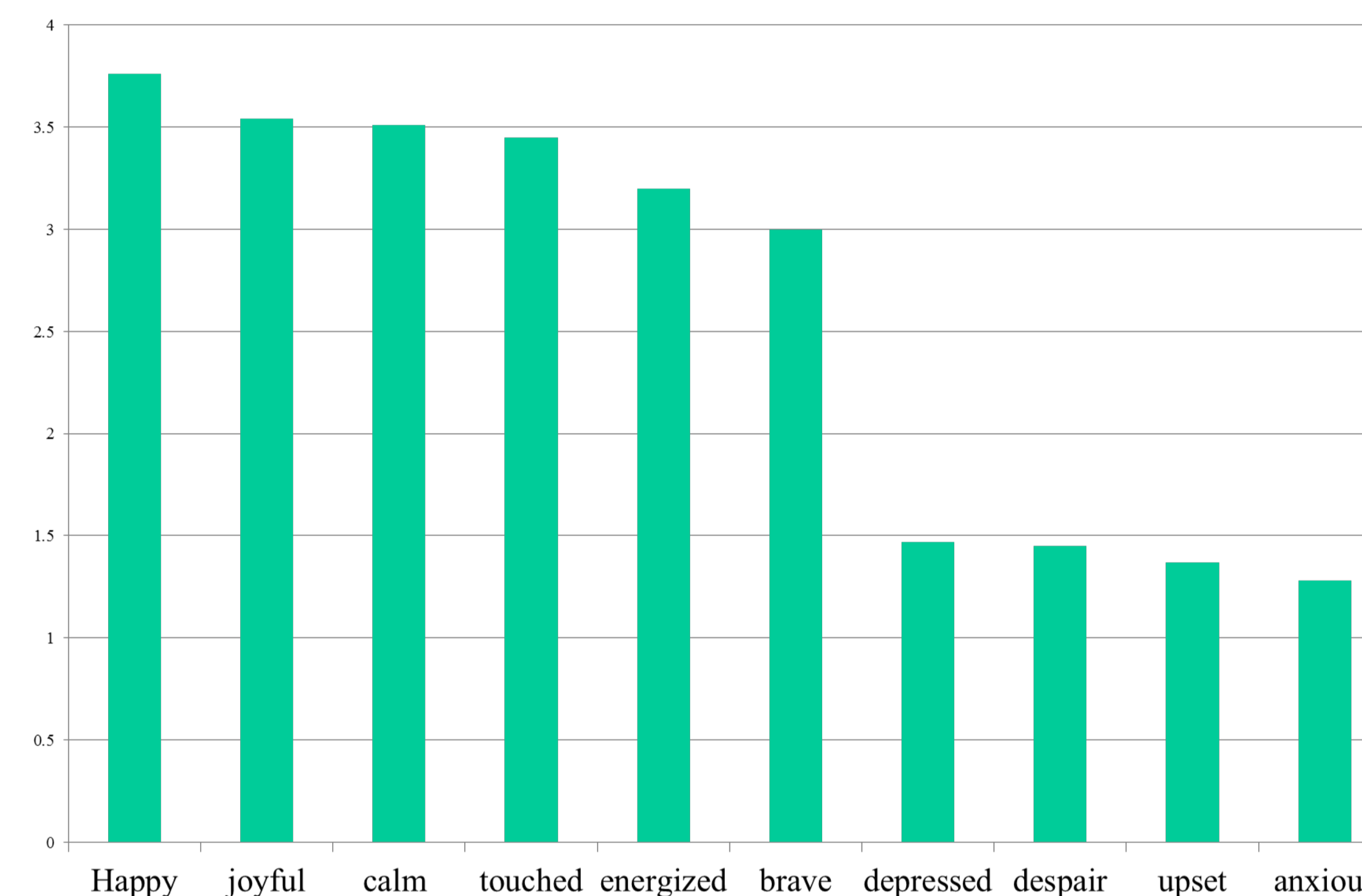
Results

This research found no significant difference in emotional response between males and females.

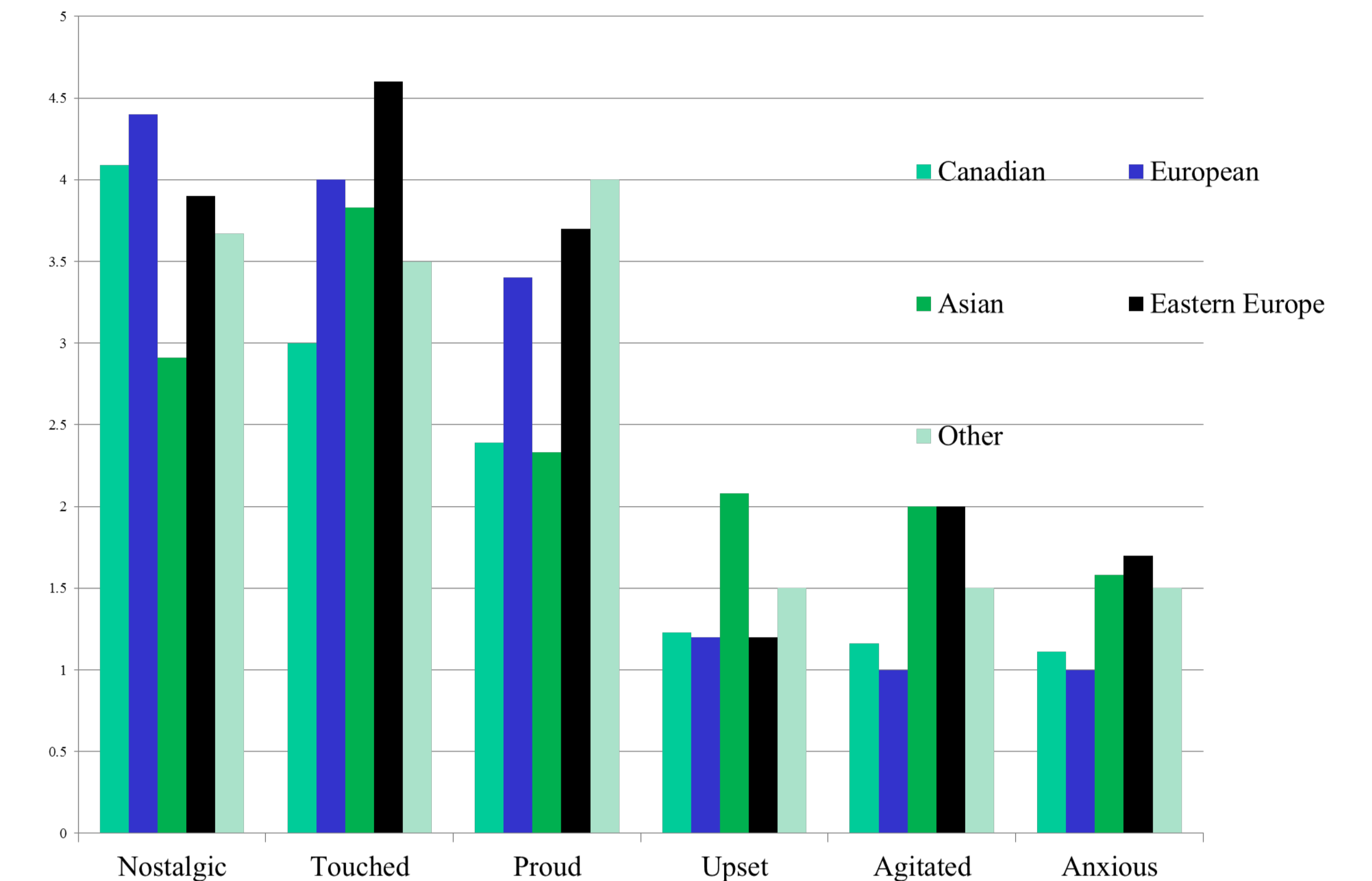
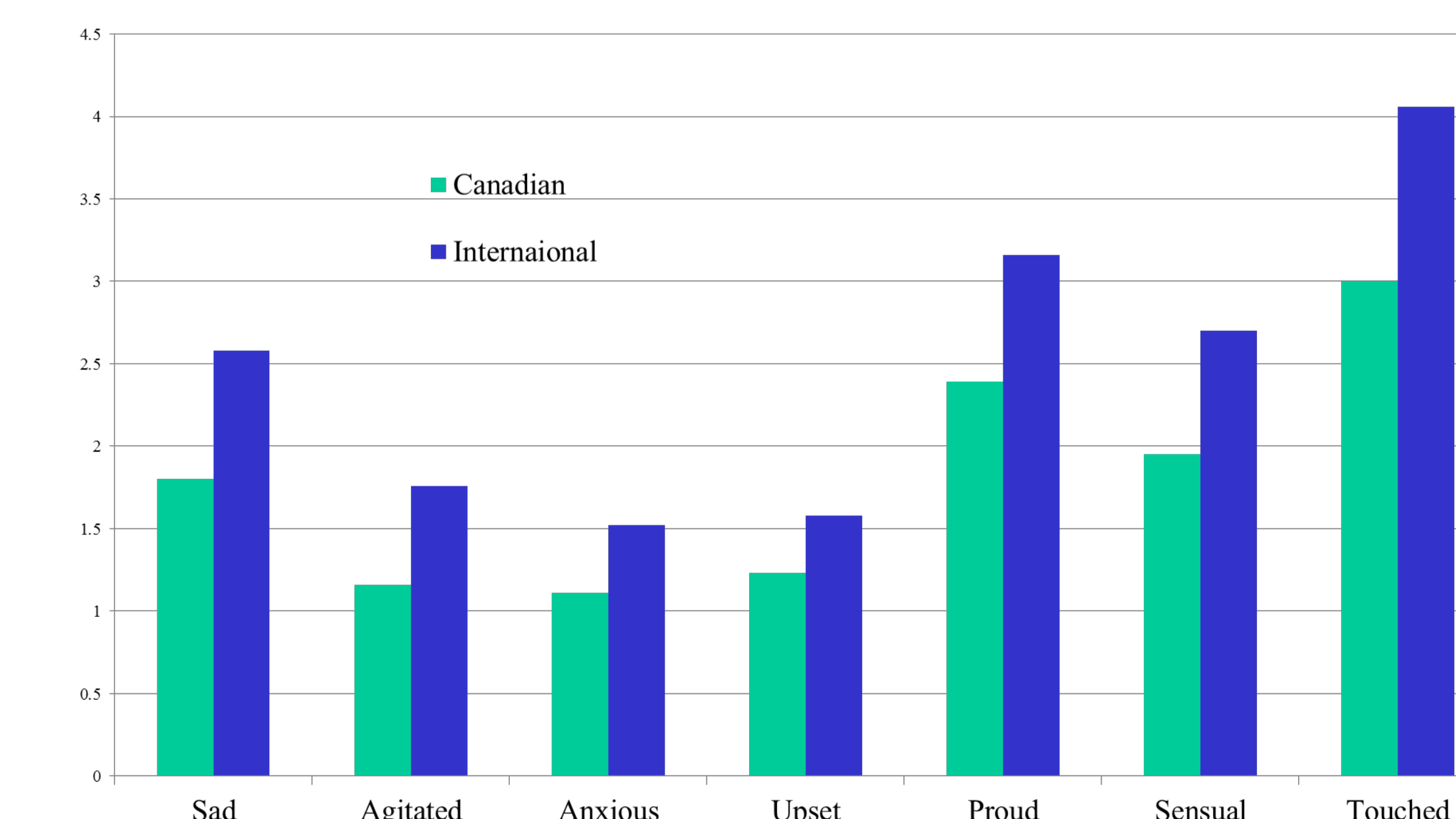
The most highly rated emotion terms associated with music of Home were found to be:

Happy, Calm, Joyful, Touched, Brave and Energized.

The lowest ratings were for Depressed, Despair Anxious, and Upset.



- Significant differences were found between Canadian and Internationally born respondents on several emotion terms, including: Touched (F=9.55 , p=.003), Sensual (F=6.34, p=.014), Proud (F=5.84, p=.018), Sad (F=8.29,p=.005), Agitated (F=11.99,p=.001), Upset (F=4.22, p=.044) and Anxious (F=8.22, p=.005).



Results also indicated that cultural background has a significant impact on emotional response to music associated with “home” for Nostalgic (F=2.79, p=.033), Touched (F=2.92, p=.027), Proud (F=3.60, p=.010), Upset (F=3.86, p=.007), Agitated (F=5.48, p=.001) and Anxious (F= 3.34, p=.015).

Discussion

- This exploratory research has shown both commonalities and differences across cultural groups with experience of emotions that pertain to music of “home”.
- While most respondents report happy as an emotion related to music of home, differences were found for nostalgia, touched and proud along with upset, anxious and agitated.
- One challenge found was that several participants who did not speak English as a first language reported difficulty in understanding the emotion terms.
- Future research could build on this study by having participants listen to the songs as they rate the emotion words, this way their emotional response would be experienced in the moment, potentially yielding a more accurate rating.

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