## Hearing the light: neural and perceptual encoding of optogenetic stimulation in the

## central auditory pathway

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**Fig. S1.** Animals' reaction time towards the laser stimulation. Behavioral crossing latency, rather than crossing probability, is plotted as a function of laser pulse amplitude (a) and rate (b).



**Fig. S2. The ICc is tonotopically organized along the dorsal-ventral axis.** The best frequency of recorded sites (N = 10 penetrations, 16 sites per penetration) in the ICc are plotted as a function of depth, revealing a tonotopic organization. The arrow indicates the depth of virus injection.



**Fig. S3. The performance of population-based detection matches the performance of single-site-based detection.** The sensitivity indices (d') for stimuli with different pulse rates are measured with a population decoding scheme, where the population d' is quantified as the highest single-site-based d' out of all the recorded sites from a given animal.



**Movie S1. Animals showed generalized avoidance behavior across stimulus types.** All animals with either ChR2 or Chronos expressed in the ICc would show avoidance behavior towards laser stimulation highly similar to that of sound stimulation.