



Dr. Johanna Maria Roels

Abstract

In the course of my own practice as a piano teacher, by paying attention to the creative potential of my pupils, a situation spontaneously arose in which I shifted the pedagogical emphasis from learning to reproduce music towards the creation of music. What began as an experiment, has grown into a method which involves an interrelationship of all the various dimensions of musicality such as listening, designing, noting down and performing, and which uses the visual capacity of my pupils in such a way that their own drawings constitute a starting point for their compositions and for the visualisation of music-theoretical concepts. In this paper/workshop I will give examples of two (of the four) studies I made in perspective of my doctoral dissertation entitled: Authenticity in children's musical creations. The first study grew out of my experiment with visual expression and is entitled: The integration of visual expression in music education for children with the following research question: How do children use their own drawings as a composition plan and how do children visualise music-theoretical concepts? From observing the compositional processes and analysing the children's compositions, I noticed that strategies and thought processes were being transferred from the initial compositional process. This insight led to the second study entitled: Transdisciplinary dimensions in the composing activities of children: transfer of strategies and transformation of knowledge and formulated the following research question: How do children compose if they have originally learned to compose by transforming their own drawings? Is there a transfer of strategies? The examples show that interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary thinking and learning comes naturally for children. The examples presented include drawings, scores and audio-visual material with performances by the children. Participants will be given opportunities to try out some of these visualization concepts.

Bio

Dr. Johanna Maria Roels has, from her teaching practice in Part-time Art Education, developed a piano pedagogy in which different dimensions of musicality such as listening, designing, notating, performing and reproducing are interrelated. Through the integration of visual expression the method has an interdisciplinary character. The method is illustrated in her books *Children on Wings* (2002) and *Children on Wings 2, Analytical Practical Workbook* (2015), Metropolis Antwerp. Since 2000, the method was introduced in her didactic courses at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp and communicated on numerous national and international conferences. At the university of Antwerp she made an in-depth study of her work which resulted in a PhD dissertation and in different publications in international peer-reviewed ISI-journals in the field of music education.