



Zaina Shihabi

Abstract

This presentation reports on a PhD project which explores the potential powerful influence of gender association and gender-typing on music students by looking at the effects of curriculum and the realities constructed due to education, societal norms and expectations, as well as the media on identity in the lead up to higher education; this particular study focuses on Western art music education. In the summer of 2014, a small study was conducted to determine whether or not music students in higher education felt that there was enough female representation in music curricula across two universities in Liverpool. 96 percent of students who replied to the questionnaire felt that there was not enough female representation in Western art music curricula, and only seven percent could name seven or more female composers, whereas 89 percent of the respondents could name seven or more male composers. According to author Eugene Gates the explanation for the lack of female representation in the field is due to more than cultural and societal restrictions and traditions, it is due to the field of musicology being 'an extremely conservative discipline'; one that is suspicious of change. There is also a fear that by including the work of women in the Western canon or 'repertoire of great works', that we will then be doing so at the expense of what has already been valued as 'great work'. But one can argue that change and inclusion are what keep our society progressing forward, and that by including the work of women, one need not replace, but merely add to existing great works. This presentation focuses on interviews with music students of all taught levels at the University of Liverpool and Liverpool Hope University, and questionnaires to many others. The main tool used with the interviewees will be Pam Burnard's tool of 'Rivers of Music Experience' .

Bio

Zaina is a doctoral student researcher at Liverpool Hope University. A Jordanian who was born and raised in Saudi Arabia, Zaina received her BA in Mass Communication from the American University of Sharjah in the UAE, and although she has always had great passion for education and music, her life took a different path for several years as she worked in marketing, events and editorial. When the opportunity presented itself, Zaina jumped at the chance to pursue her MA in Education and Music in the UK. Her current research focuses on the education of the history of music, curriculum development, gender, and identity. She is a student representative for the Research Ethics

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Sub-Committee, both at Hope, as well as the National Association for Music in Higher Education. She is also the editor of the Hope music department's newsletter 'Ensemble'.