

Summary

Music between pedagogy, culture and language

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Music is one of the oldest art forms of our civilization and the basic form of expression of human culture. Analyzing the differences between Western art music and music of other cultures, we find that such musical styles cannot be approached in the same way since they constitute quite different phenomena. Trying to answer the question whether there is a general human capacity for music, and whether there are similarities that can be recognized in the music of different cultures, we analyze the musical universals (structure, notation, form, function) and the similarities and differences between music and language. Since the infant can detect changes in melodic contour, time structuring, pitch and colour in music of any culture, we may assume that the rudiments of music perception are a gift of nature, not a product of culture. Due to these abilities of an infant, the author suggests the possibility and the need for early and appropriate musical-educational intervention.

Keywords: music, universals, language, culture, music pedagogy.