

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

This issue of "Problems in Music Pedagogy" contains studies reflecting practical experience and methodological propositions in music education originated in the Baltic region (Finland and Latvia).

The results of three studies by scientists from Finland (University of Eastern Finland and University of Jyväskylä) open new horizons in music education. Testing the elements and applications of creative and productive music education paradigm in a primary school classroom context, Siiri AHTOLA & Antti JUVONEN concluded that with this approach it is possible to diversify music education into a new direction: increasing the appearance of creativity and productivity in music education, as well as to increase the teacher's competency in the issue. This approach gives the teacher more time and freedom to refrain from sitting behind the piano (or other instruments) and focus more on supporting students' independent, voluntary learning.

Based on the analysis of experiences gained by Vantaa's Tempo Orchestra, Maija PUROMIES & Antti JUVONEN reveal that Finland's El Sistema, which spread from Venezuela, increases contacts and interactions between immigrants and the population, and promotes partnership between children from different backgrounds as well as prevents racism while helping immigrant children and their families to integrate into Finnish life. The results of the study are particularly important in the context of the creation and development of a multicultural environment and cultural dialogue in the European Union.

The relevance of e-studies has increased due to multiform learning and individual educational paths that are not limited by time and place. The focus of the study by Katri-Helena RAUTIAINEN is students' skill learning, learning processes, and learning experiences while studying music independently through e-learning. The main result of this study is the asynchronous e-learning module. During this study, the skill of self-regulation was observed in the student reports as their ability to regulate their learning and strategy selection. Author concludes that self-regulative e-learning strengthens students' motivation and feelings of success when the objectives are suitable.

The song and dance festival is the most unifying cultural tradition of the Baltic States, which over time has become an important symbol of national identity. The acoustic environment and adaptation to it are important in the singing process of both soloists and choristers. Considering the importance of room acoustics in vocal recording, it is essential to understand that there is quite a great difference between the conditions at a rehearsal and those at a concert. Therefore, when working with choirs, rehearsal rooms should be different from performance rooms. Within the framework of the research by

Baiba TRINĪTE (Liepāja University, Latvia), the physical parameters and reverberation time of 20 rooms for choir rehearsals in Latvia were measured according to ISO 3382-1 (2009), while the rest of the data examined sound strength, area of surfaces, coefficients, and the matter of absorption obtained by calculations. The author emphasises that space is an essential factor where the sound created by the choir lives and meets its listeners: that's why conductors should pay attention not only to the choice of compositions and the professional preparedness of singers, but also to such essential and crucial factors as the choice of adequate rehearsal and concert rooms, the arrangement of choristers in the room, and length of reverberation time.

At getting acquainted with the research findings of our colleagues from various countries, we enrich our own experience, broaden our vision of a music study process and reach the conclusion that we have much more in common than different: the experience of any music teacher, student and scientist is unique. I wish inspiration, perseverance and consistence on the way toward the innovative music teaching/learning for all of researchers, musicians and music educators.

On behalf of editor-in-chief of the journal, I express my appreciation to the authors, Editorial Board, Editorial Staff, Council of Science of Daugavpils University and the Academic Press "Saule" for successful teamwork, perseverance and valuable support to the continuation of this periodical.

**Editor-in-chief
Jelena Davidova**