

The significance of musical meaning in music performance education

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Kulcsszavak: methodologies of performance teaching, teacher training, musical meaning, Kodály concept

Absztrakt

Relying on concepts taken from pedagogical practice, sports science (especially from recent research of attentional control in sports), as well as from empirical analyses of video-recorded performances, I propose a theory of the music performer's phenomenological processes. The theory posits that the quality of a performance relies on the actual feelings and thoughts the musician embraces during performance, and I argue that these are, ideally, connected to musical meaning. Based on this, I present a model of musical meaning that has proven useful in performance teaching, including teaching of instrumentalists, singers, and conductors, leading to particularly successful realisations of performance intentions. This model consists of five categories of musical signification, related to different layers of the musical process, including gesturality, direct representation/expression of emotions, tonality, temporal structure, and narrative process. In my paper I aim at showing from the point of view of the performer how cognitive representations of the different categories of musical meaning are formed in real time, during the act of performance, and in what particular ways the focussing on meanings of each the categories can be effectively taught. Furthermore, I intend to review a set of 20th-century and more recent methodologies based on, or compatible with, Kodály's pedagogical principles, explicitly aiming at teaching music (both instruments and aural skills) through focusing on one or more of the above categories of meaning. Finally, in light of the above considerations about the role of musical meaning in performance and its teaching, I attempt to reconsider the role of 'technical' study in the process of practising, making an argument for the central role of the cognitive representation of musical meaning in this process.

Szakirodalom

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