Intersection of Multiple Intelligences in Musical Performance

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ABSTRACT

Purpose Design: To describe and elucidate the importance of simultaneous use of multiple intelligences through an examination of the components of musical performance

Methodology /approach used: Participant observation as a student, composer, performer, connoisseur and teacher.

Findings: Musical performance is a complex product of multiple kinds of intelligence many of which are often taken for granted.

Practical Implication: Music education at university level can stand as an example of validation of both ‘cerebral’ and manual/kinetic intelligences.

Originality /value: Music intelligence, as expressed in the ability to play an instrument, sing or compose a piece of music, or collaborate in a group to produce music is ‘composed’ of many kinds of intelligence including Auditory intelligence, haptic intelligence, kinetic intelligence, visual intelligence among others.

Different pieces of music are written for particular mediums through which they are to be expressed through a performance. Any music performer, be it an instrumentalist or singer applies a multiple of skills including visual/spatial skills to interpret the music score on to which a composed piece of music is stored. In composing a piece of music, a composer conceives it in his/her mind as a three dimension structure in sound and space using a number of known elements that are patterned and given shape. This is comparable to a building designed by an architect and built by engineers.

The process of creating a piece of music involves the simultaneous understanding and use musical elements: pitch, rhythm, tone color, texture, form, dynamics, etc., in a logical pattern and sequence to give it its characteristic in time and space.

Studies undertaken on the effects of music in learning indicate that music nourishes an integrated system of sensory, attention, cognitive, emotional and motor capacities which are the main drive the forces behind all learning.

Keywords: Music education, skill sets, auditory intelligence, digital/vocal intelligence