

“From the Sound to the Sign, from the Sign to the Sound”. The musical composition as an interactive tool in the music education and as an impulse for an "alternative" teaching-method

Mag. Irene Malizia

I would like to present one of my artistic and didactic research projects as example, providing a starting point for reflection about **the role of artistic research in music education**. The foundation of this project is formed by three elements:

- **The Sound**, as a unique and autonomous musical element, represents the first aspect in the spontaneous and impulsive approach to music.
- **The Analysis** as a tool of a didactic approach constitutes the most important path for the “understanding” and is therefore a basic element in the artistic research.
- **The Composition** as a creative element is intended as a representation and re-creation (at various levels) of a musical thought and concept.

The correlation between these elements accounts for the application of music composition as a multifunctional element of artistic research in the musical education.

The initial point of my concept is the sound, but not musical notation, thereupon it leads to research and to create a sort of “personal notation” and to combine many sounds in one way, finally to return from the sign to the initial sound, passing through different “notations” and different sounds, with the possibility to create (or to “compose”) different and personal combinations of sounds. The target is to turn away from the notation, focusing only on the inherent language of music.

This project is just an example how to organize a creative educational path that allows teacher and students of diverse proficiency to activate a process of artistic research. It is possible to arrange the project modularly and to adapt this idea to different learning situations, changing musical elements but maintaining the learning method through creative composition processes, at various levels.

It is my argument that artistic research is in the first instance a kind of laboratory, in combination with observation and analysis. In this framework, teaching is research (which is action & reflection) and creation, everything is connected. My project tries to incorporate these aspects in a “teaching-researching laboratory”. Originally developed for children and young adults, it incorporates in the meanwhile also students of music pedagogy in order to widen their didactic and methodic competence.

Each lesson represents a moment of exchange between teacher and student. Exchange means experience, which means laboratory, which means research. In a 360-degree exchange activity, each input becomes output for a new input at different levels. A group lesson with various competence levels (from children to advanced students) can represent a wonderful research platform with infinite inputs and outputs that can be received and reused in thousand different ways. Playing means analysing; analysing means artistic research; research means understanding; understanding means creating. There is no teaching without research; no research without reflection; no reflection and no creation without observation. If we try to teach our students to think by researching and to research by creating, we will be able to train “artists” and not just “performers”.



Mag. IRENE MALIZIA

JAM MUSIC LAB Private University for Jazz and Popular Music and JAM MUSIC LAB Conservatory, for Classic Music, Music Theatre, Jazz and Popular Music. Vienna, Austria.

malizia@jammusiclab.com

www.variandomusica.net

Musician with Italian origin, Irene Malizia works in Vienna as violinist, composer and teacher. She got the Master's Degree in Violin, in Composition, in Instrumental didactic and pedagogy, the Postgraduate in electroacoustic composition and the diploma for the Orff-Schulwerk Method. She has been awarded in numerous violin and composition competitions. She plays as soloist, in ensembles and in symphony orchestras. As composer she has a lot of performances and she works for the Doblinger publishing house (last work "*Colori e multiforme*"). She is study coordinator of Jam Music Lab Classic Conservatory where she also teaches Harmony and Music Theory. She is also assistant teacher of Violin in Joseph Haydn Conservatory. She founded, together with the guitarist Angelo Tatone, the musical brand "*Variando Musica*". She is very involved with educational projects for violin and composition with children and students, as well in musical and didactic research.