

Bård Dahle

**THE MUSIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN NORWAY
WITH EMPHASIS ON Volda UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE AND THE MUSIC COMMUNICATIONS
SUBJECT**

A few words about myself

Assistant professor in music at Volda University College in Norway

I took my degree as pianist at the State Conservatory of Music in Oslo.

Now teaches in several theoretical subjects as music history, ear training, composition, music communication and of course piano

I met Noemi in June when she visited us and stayed in our home in Volda and met her again a couple of weeks ago when she was there for our International Day.

And one of my piano students are Katalin Hohl who is a student here in Szeged but this semester she is in Volda, and enjoying herself I think.

Outline of speech

During the 20 minutes I have to my disposal I will give a brief outline of the region I come from, the history of higher education and music education in Norway, what we offer at Volda University College, and what I do in my work, leading up to one of the subjects I teach and one of the field trips I have done with some of my students to Kenya in Africa.

Volda

Hungary has 2.5 times the people of Norway and Norway covers an area 2.5 times that of Hungary.

Volda is small place 6-7000 inhabitants. It is situated between the towns of Bergen and Trondheim in a region of fjords and high alpine mountains. It forms a region of about 20.000 together with the neighbouring town Ørsta. We're now building a tunnel under a fjord that's going to be 8 km long and the deepest in the world 287 m below sea level, connecting it to another strong region in shipbuilding and fisheries with another 20.000 people.

This town and the neighbouring, Ørsta, where I live (they are just 10 km apart) have for 200 years been a cultural centre in Norway in spite of its few people and remoteness to Oslo and Bergen.

In the late 1700s a farmer collected books and started the first library outside the big cities in Norway, located in the church of course. He also started the first newspaper.

One farmer's boy got interested, borrowed books and in the middle of the 1800s became the inventor of the second official language of Norway: New Norwegian, based on the many very different dialects of Norway's many fjords and valleys. His name was Ivar Aasen.

This interest in intellectual matters among the citizens of Volda led to the establishment of the first teacher's training college outside the big cities in the late 1800s.

Later Ørsta and Volda got a strong industry based on manufacture of furniture, got its own hospital and airport making it a strong region.

So much about the history of the region

Higher education in Norway

30 years ago we had mainly 6 different types of higher education in Norway

1) Universities

The University was for a long time the only one in Norway. Later we have had 3 more, in Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø. The only one which had a music department was the one in Oslo.

2) Colleges on University level: Music (from 1973), Engineering, Agriculture.

3) Colleges in different practical fields

4) District colleges concentrating on human and social activities. About 20 in the smaller cities and bigger regions

5) Music conservatories

In 1973 there were seven music conservatories in Norway.

6) Teachers training colleges

In 1990 there were 19 teachers training colleges

Now the two first groups still exist

These four last groups were merged in the early 1990s to several University Colleges

Volda University College

Till 1994 there was the Volda College and Volda District College.

It is now Volda University College with four departments: Journalism and film, Social sciences, Human sciences and the Teachers Training Department

Volda University College is one of the smallest in Norway with just 2500 students.

The strongest field is Journalism, outdoor life (which is a very important part of Norwegian culture) and music.

We are struggling to keep the University College alive as students want to go the bigger cities. Our strong assets are many students' activities, the nature with very good opportunities for outdoor life all year round.

We are the only University College (except those with a conservatory) which have a symphony orchestra.

We have an equivalent of about 65 fulltime students and are seven teachers.

We have much too little space, but we have about 15 pianos, 3 grand pianos, the students have access to lots of computers, 6 of them fully equipped for music.

As one of a few university colleges we started offering a bachelor's degree in 2003.

First semester:

- Introduction in music theory
- Introduction in music pedagogy

Second semester

- Continuation in music theory
- Continuation in music pedagogy

Third semester

- Composition and conducting
- Music technology

Fourth semester

- Music communication
- Music didactics and instrumental method

Fifth semester

- Bachelor's thesis based on one of the four last subjects. This can be theoretical or practical. Last spring we had two singers, one specializing in Norwegian Folk Music and one pianist, playing American contemporary music.

Noemi has asked me to tell something about the "Music communication" subject. It is a fairly practical subject. The students will during the semester learn how to organize three types of concerts:

- Students concerts (one a month)
- Concerts in primary schools
- Concerts for the public

They learn how to speak to an audience, how to introduce music, behave before an audience, set up the written program, all practical aspects and so on. Among the last concerts we have done are three concerts in one evening concentrating on American Piano Music and one with piano 1,2,3,4,5,6,8 and 24 hands.

During the semester we also try to make an excursion to another country to experience mainly classical music on a level we don't have the opportunity to experience in Volda. The last three years we have been to St. Petersburg, New York and Budapest (during the Spring Festival). The students have to pay all expenses themselves.

In addition to that we made an experiment by sending six students along with students studying politics and religion to Kenya and Africa. Their assignment was to record whatever we were able to come across of music during the month we were away and make it accessible when we were there (by means of a homepage on Internet) and when we came back. The reason we are away that long is because the students get a grant from the State because it's considered studying abroad. The music we experienced was mainly in schools, churches, concerts, streets, hotels and restaurants as well as people performing at the students' requests. We brought with us 7 digital cameras, 3 digital video cameras, 3 minidisk recorders and 3 laptop computers, coming home with 4000 pictures, 19 hours of video and several hours of sound. This includes also all the other experiences we had during our stay, of course, ranging from lectures in East African history, politics and geography to safari, a 4 days excursion to the top of the nearly 5000 meter high Mount Kenya and snorkelling in the Indian Ocean. The time we were there we tried the best we could to keeping a home page on the Internet. At home the students made

- A 40 minute digital slide show
- A one hour DVD concentrating mainly on the music
- A three hour DVD covering the whole month stay in Kenya
- A 60 page summary of the trip

If I have time left I will show you some of the music we experienced.