

**B1 – ISSUES OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT IN MUSIC EDUCATION IN
HUNGARY AND IN LUXEMBOURG**

B1

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Symposium Presentations

The role of formal analysis for improving musical skills: A study of eye movements

Zsuzsa Buzás
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János Steklács
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Testing music-reading ability in conservatory students: Results of a pilot study

István Benedekfi
Ball State University School of Music, Indianapolis

Music education in Luxembourg and its assessment

Damien Sagrillo
University of Luxembourg

The effect of different warming-up sessions on the singing voice

Tamás Altorjay
Doctoral School of Education, University of Szeged

SYMPOSIUM ABSTRACT

The symposium presents initial results from research projects on musical skills of conservatory students and also gives an outlook into assessment of music education in Luxembourg. Our aim is to explore the possibilities and methods of diagnostic assessment of musical skills and also to test different music abilities.

In Hungarian and in other European music schools and conservatories solfège and music-theory target the improvement of musical skills, including music-reading and music-writing. At conservatory level the number of students who study solfège is about five thousand, in music schools their number is about 250 000 in Hungary. However, there has been very little research on solfège and its transfer effects as yet. The basic elements of musical syntax and grammar are taught from the first year in primary education and specialized musical education as well. Previous research in a conservatory has revealed that music-reading and writing abilities are strongly correlated with each other, and these musical abilities are strongly correlated with clear intonation and rhythmic skills ($p < .001$), and also music writing shows a strong correlation with other skills, such as critical thinking, goal setting or concentration ($p < .001$; *Buzás, 2013*).

The first presentation of the symposium is dealing with eye movement in music-reading in relation to musical performance. Using eye-tracking is becoming a popular methodological tool nowadays, and it also offers an opportunity to facilitate the development of student learning. The second presentation is a pilot study about testing music-reading ability with an online questionnaire. The aim of this research is to explore conservatory students' knowledge about musical patterns and symbols and also to reveal metacognitive music-reading strategies.

Different countries have different systems of music education that could affect the improvement of music-reading ability. The third presentation is dealing with the assessment of Western European countries' music education. In Luxembourg it is based on the francophone system of solfège, and conservatories offer special sight-reading lessons for future singers and professional musicians.

Vocational training forms one of the basic parts of music education. In this research the recording of the singing voice on sustained vowels of thirty singing college students was analysed. They arrived to the experimental session without any previous warm-up. The results show the pedagogical advantage of the use of nasal warming-up exercises besides the traditional oral warm-up tasks.