

POS-195

Four-Handed Piano Tasks: The Importance of Enjoying Musical Performance in Order to Increase Internal Motivation

Nozomi Azechi
Doho Univeristy, Japan

Masami Yoshimura
Doho Univeristy, Japan

Abstract

Background of the paper

Piano performance skills are compulsory for nursery teachers to establish their careers in Japan. Therefore, university students' motivation to practice piano alone is very strong, but often, in their desire to improve, they neglect their enjoyment of music making, and their performances can become too studied and serious. However, it is also important for nursery teachers to show their enjoyment in playing music, in order to encourage the participation of young children.

Previous researches revealed that four-handed piano tasks were effective in several ways during nursery teacher training courses, permitting students to recognize the nice sound of music and to start enjoying their performances.

Therefore, we set a task to motivate university students in finding enjoyment in playing the piano spontaneously and creatively, and playing with another person, sharing their music, thus increasing internal motivation.

Aim

The aim of this study is to investigate the outcome of the four-handed piano tasks on nursery teacher training courses.

Method

Two surveys were conducted, one year apart. The purpose of the surveys was to discover how much the students enjoyed the four-handed piano tasks, and to ascertain for how long they maintained their enjoyment in practice afterwards. Text mining and m-GTA analysis were applied for the purpose of analysis.

Results

In the first survey, conducted straight after the four-handed piano performance, students reported a high level of satisfaction and nervousness. However, in the second survey a year later, students reported a lower level of the enjoyment in their piano performance. Even though there were particular words that showed their positivity in practice, such as, singing and playing the piano at the same time, practice in front of other people, and performance.

Conclusions and implications for music education

The external motivation to establish their careers was stronger than their internal motivation to enjoy music, even though the four-handed piano performance appeared initially successful. To increase internal motivation, competence and self-determination are effective, therefore, it is important to encourage students in selecting their own music program, deciding practice methods, and planning their schedules by themselves.

And also, musical consciousness is the key to increasing internal motivation. To do so, teachers' direct intervention is required at certain times. And additionally, students must be

made aware of the musical effect they are making while performing, so allowing them to better adapt their performances and musical expression for different situations.