

POS-242

Analyzing the Role of IT in Music Education Based on the Concept of Media by McLuhan

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Abstract

In the whirlpool of Covid-19, various music activities utilizing IT are being attempted. However, most of them have never escaped from an established system in music so far. Many music activities have been premised on other people. Thus, any music has been produced, developed, consumed and appreciated based on the socio-cultural settings. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have an opportunity to rethink on what "music" is through IT. According to the Canadian philosopher and media specialist Marshall McLuhan (1964), media refers to everything that extends the human body and sensations (or the nervous system that underlies them) beyond their reach. McLuhan talks about how the medium affects human social life: He devised the laws of media based on four items: extension; obsolescence; retrieval; and reversal. A certain media goes through the simultaneous action of extension, obsolescence and retrieval, and then, its new potential is realized. While at the same time, reversal to another form as a new media is occurred. In this paper, the author clarified the effects of IT on music activities by applying it to the laws of the media in order to propose a brand-new music education curriculum based the use of IT. Literature research based on the concept of media proposed by McLuhan was undertaken as a method. The findings of this paper are:

- 1) IT extends musical activities. This extension process reconstructs the relationship between the sound and the body.
- 2) This process can also be as a shift from synchronicity to diachronicity.
- 3) IT plays an important role to regain the gestures and facial expressions, which was lost due to non-face-to-face or wearing a mask to the visual space.
- 4) IT, at the same time, diminishes the relationship between the sound and the body: we cannot expect a real human touch form virtual communication by tablet, for example,

In conclusion, the author pointed out that IT works to strengthen its diachronic aspect. It cannot be considered as a supplementation of musical activities, that is to say, no reversal by McLuhan has yet happened. Taking advantage of IT, we music educators, therefore, should attempt to create a more creative and productive "reversal" for children in music education.