BOOK REVIEWS

INFORMATICS AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE MUSIC, no 1/2010, Ed. MediaMusica, Cluj-Napoca

In the first half of this year **The Center for Excellence in the Field of the European Educational, Cultural and Artistic Connection of the Music Academy "Gh. Dima" of Cluj-Napoca** has started a new specialty magazine ICT that would approach in different matters, the problematic of the using of the information and communication technology in the music and especially in this case, in the didactic area. The magazine has an A4 format and it is edited by MediaMusica Publishing House of the Music Academy "Gheorghe Dima." It is in a bi-lingual form as the text is edited on two parallel columns, English and Romanian. This first number of the magazine (no 1/2010) has 137 pages.

This work was supported by CNCSIS-UEFISCU, project number PNII-IDEI Code 718/2008 named *Exploring the Adaptation of On-line Learning Means to Music Education*.

The Editor-in-Chief of this new series of the magazines is University Professor Doctor Constantin Rîpă. Together with him, the Series Editorial Board is made of the following personalities: University Professor Doctor Nelida Nedelcuț, University Professor Doctor Eduard Terényi, University Professor Doctor Gabriel Banciu, Assistant University Professor Ciprian Gabriel Pop PhD, Assistant University Professor Răzvan Metea PhD – of the Music Academy "Gh. Dima", Lecturer University Professor, Doctor Veronica Demenescu – of the West University of Timişoara, and the diplomatic engineer Jens Walding – Walding Enterprise, Wiener Staatsoper. The publisher of the series is Răzvan Metea, and the cover was made by Ciprian Gabriel Pop.

All the technical information of this magazine can be found at the back of the title page. The content of the magazine is structured on three large chapters.

1. Applicative and Fundamental Research in Education by I.T. Means
2. I.T. Resources in Musical Field
3. Music Creation and Creativity by I.T. Means

We will present here the title and the abstracts of the studies that can be found in this volume. The first chapter has nine studies.

1.1 Constantin Rîpă – *A New Vision Regarding Musical Education*
"The paper of the manifesto type – signals the setting in motion of radical action in the field of music teaching in contemporary schools, which triggers a shift in the purpose of musical education, from the winning over of devotees for a certain repertoire to the emancipation of creativity, based on the children's own musical imagination. This entire process will be implemented via present-day information technology. The effect of this leap forward in teaching techniques will be the regaining of the students' interest in "music" as a subject and it will contribute to the momentum in musical education teaching."

1.2 Loredana Conțiu – *Information and Communication Cechnologies in the Context of Contemporary Music Education*
"This paper reveals a study on the place and role that teaching strategies based on information and communication technologies should have in contemporary music education, according to student's opinions"

1.3 Jens Walding – *E-learning and New Media in Education*
"From the point of view of disseminating and updating the knowledge, educational the concepts based on new technologies offer big advantages in terms of speed and flexibility. The educational offer can be centrally developed and updated and eventually made available to a broad public, regardless of time or place."

1.4 Ion Negrilă – *The Teacher from Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow...*
"Computer uses both high level students and for proper those with medium or low use of tact and imagination of the teacher is likely to stimulate students' interest in music education. Nowadays the computer is used in all areas; this is more helpful for the staff. Computer store more data and documents and access is easier. Connection is made via computer and can communicate around the globe."

1.5 Carolina Karoli – *The Role of I.T. in the Musical - Artistic Education*
"This work offers a study on the need of applying the I.T. system in the instructive-educational process of the musical – artistic school education. The resources of this system open new perspectives and opportunities, offering interdisciplinary - character services up to creating new subjects in the specialised field. The application of the I.T. resources in the musical education may lead to changes in teaching – learning process. That is the reason why I.T. is being tried to be integrated in the musical school education from the standpoint of the institutional change management, which strongly outlines the pupils / students' interest, in

order for them to be well trained and capable to integrate themselves in a fully computerised society. The approach of the work is rather a systemic one for the pedagogical activity than a technical one, as it is sustained by the suggestions of some strategies of involvement into present times and also by some issues of research for the future."

1.6 Veronica Demenescu – Simona Negru – *Teaching Valences of ICT Resources in Musical Education*

"Computer is still the greatest invention of the 20th century, and the globalization of its use represents the 20th century's desiderate. The use of ICT resources in the educational process, at the level of all its components – teaching – learning – evaluation – is one of the renewal directions of the European education systems. Thus, perceived as electronic means of information, communication, and individual work or teamwork, ICT resources are not only adjuvant in the teaching process, but they become its component parts. Besides the effective opportunities, the use of these resources gives the educational process a maximum transparency, removing human subjectivism and lot interests, which corresponds to Romanian education ideals within the actual context of structural and legislative renewal."

1.7 Lucian Ghişa – *Landmarks in Producing Didactic Materials in Multimedia Format*

"The multimedia applications within the system of education support the evolution of computerized technologies. The courses in multimedia format reflect this development and their main features are associability, interactivity and interdisciplinary."

1.8 Gabriela Coca – *I.T. Applications in Harmony and Counterpoint*

"This study presents the conception of the author about I.T. Applications in Harmony and Counterpoint teaching and learning. She is preoccupied by three questions: 1. Is it possible to create a computer program in order to make easily the teaching and the learning? 2. If it is possible, is this program in the benefit of the students? 3. Do the I.T. applications stimulate the creativity and the imagination of the students?"

1.9 Alina Lucia Stan – *The Use of Digital Technologies in Ethno-musical Research*

„The Ethno-musicological research implies methods of gathering and technologies which presents in time an evolution generated by the development of multimedia technology. We are presenting steps on the folkloric research and the using methods."

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The second chapter named *I.T. Resources in Musical Field* has six studies:

2.1 Ciprian Gabriel Pop – Mara Dana Florentina Pop – *Propeller Head Reason – Efficiency and Creativity*

"Propeller head Reason software may constitute one of the most efficient way of making and learning music stimulating the creativity, opening the appetite for a relatively new world of sounds – electronic music. This is a virtual studio in which modules can be used both individual and combined, the virtualization offering in such of case a very efficient support for exploring new way of producing sound and musical creation."

2.2 Adrian Borza – *Prolegomena to Interactive Music Systems*

„This paper aims to discuss the interactive music system concept. An operational computer with «intelligent» software «understands» the performer actions and «follows» the score, being able to accompany the soloist, to transform the sound and to generate music, during the ongoing performance. It provides the reader with compositional algorithms for the purpose of illustrating Max/MSP programming methods and techniques."

2.3 Răzvan Metea – *Sibelius 6 – Facilities in the Musical Composition*

"Sibelius 6 is a giant leap forward in notation software – with amazing new features and improvements for educators, students, composers, arrangers, copyists and musicians of all kinds. Sibelius is like having an intelligent assistant at your side, doing all the tedious work for you while you provide the creative input – which is, after all, the most enjoyable bit. We like to say that using Sibelius is 99% inspiration, 1% perspiration."

2.4 Cristian Mihăescu – *Dimensions of Technological Education in Musical Knowledge Development*

"The development of educational technologies registered within the last years is aligning with the continued trend towards the standardization. This imperative need is generated by the large-scale implementation of information programs into the educational process, especially by the reutilization of educational content. The educational programs present an upward application trend as complementary instruments (sometimes alternative) to the instruction process. The paper presents several dimensions of the know-how programs that can bring a substantial cognitive contribution, implicitly an extra value, to the instruction process specific aspect."

2.5 Nelida Nedelcuț – *Exploring the Adaptation of On-line Learning Means to Art and Music Education*

"Exploring the adaptation of on-line learning means to music education is a current mandatory task within the framework of contemporary technological advancements sustained by the rapid development of ICT (Information Computer Technology). The research requires a serious interdisciplinary approach, prospectively benefiting the educational system that will develop an interactive pilot/application: D.I.M.A. (a Direct Impact Multimedia Application). Multimedia are media made of various contents that include both visual support (photographs of scores, videos), and texts that one may access interactively. As teaching support, multimedia is increasingly pervading education and is named CBT (computer-based training courses) in on-line environments."

2.6 Attila Verestóy – *Computers – an Effective Support in Music Education*

"It is not compulsory to possess a complex material for music education practicing via multimedia technology, but a well-equipped room is highly appealing to pupils, affording the development of divers various activities. On the other hand, very sophisticated equipment may intimidate, or even to block up the users. However, based on the accumulated experience, it is possible to do many things by few means, applying creativity and originality."

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The third chapter named *Music Creation and Creativity by IT Means* has four studies as:

3.1 Aaron Fazakas – *Computer applications to music*

"We can state, without overbidding the significance of phenomenon that the computer impact generated the strongest reorganisation and innovative movement of music bases since its emergence until nowadays, starting from the sound qualities, and ending with the composition creation methodology. The purpose of our presentation is to point out several music realms where the computerized applications have penetrated the current use: musical creation, musical writing and reading, musical dictation, solmization, history of instruments, etc."

3.2 Iuliana Păşcălău and Ana Păşcălău – *The Interference of Music with the Information Technology*

"In my teacher experience I have met children that because of some family problems refuse to collaborate and integrate with difficulty in the class activities. I observed that their apathy can be resized through the help of music and I.T. In this article, we present the case of such a student, M.A. who because of a

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family trauma gave up school. It is a very gifted and sensible child who spent most of his time in front of the computer. Loving music, he looked for some music programs with which he created remixes as well as his own orchestrations for the hip-hop genre too. His parents being alerted and lead by devoted teachers have asked for a psychologist help who used M.A.'s love for computer and music – doing so his rehabilitation is on a good track. He succeeded in overcoming his disillusions, which trapped him for two years, and beginning this September he is going to resume his classes because he understood his need for developing his abilities in many different perspectives. The symbiosis between the music therapeutic effect and the benefits brought by the I.T. and the tact, the devotion, the love of the teachers were the key elements that helped M.A.'s state to improve."

3.3 Carmen Plaian - *Aleatorism vs Computer*
„The paper demonstrates the compatibility between aleatorism promoted in music by the trend bearing the same name, in the 1950s-60s-70s period, with electronic music that was composed in the same period. We tried to demonstrate that electronic music is to a good extent the beneficiary of aleatoric liberties, while aleatorism assimilated the I.T. techniques through which it has ensured an order coefficient."

3.4 Oana Bălan – *Refractions of Contemporary Music Via Digital Technology*
"Computers have been used in electronic music as control and processing devices, as means for the conveyance of instructions to sound-generating analogous equipment. These systems have made possible the programming of sound material alterations, carried out automatically or instantaneously, transforming the studio into an instrument having a memory of its own and functioning in real time. Like any other fundamental movement in world culture, the evolution of electronic music was marked by a series of great personalities, who made possible the advent of this type of music and who, through their diverse thinking and pursuits, contributed to the creation of a multitude of trends in this field."

The majority of the studies from this volume have explicative images that make an efficient understanding of the information that will be found inside the text.

By the analysis of the bibliography of the studies, one can see that each of it has both a traditional bibliography and a virtual one that can be found on the internet in an electronic format.

The wording of the volume is dynamical which would make it offer a visual pleasure to the reading individual.

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The majority of the studies from this volume were shortly presented by their authors in *The Symposium –I.C.T. in the Music Area*, a manifestation that belongs to the *Workshop of the Musical Didactics* that was organized by the Music Academy "Gheorghe Dima" of Cluj-Napoca in 16th – 17th of April.

To the *Symposium – I.C.T. in the Music Area*, each participant had received an elegant portfolio together with the programme of the symposium, a certificate of participation, a list with the e-mails of the participants and (!) **the volume of the symposium (**that is presented here**) in a final form (!)** a thing that would be taken by other organisers of symposiums and conferences.

So far, in my twenty years of musicological activity, I was present to thirty-seven – international and national - symposiums and conferences and it is for the first time in all these years that I had such a beautiful surprise – to hold the volume in my hand all the time during the symposium. I want to congratulate the organisers for their idea and its happy outcome.

GABRIELA COCA