

Dear Readers,

We hope that you will truly enjoy reading the texts presented in the next, 3rd issue of the *Contexts of Music Education* academic journal published by the Faculty of Composition, Music Theory, Conducting, Eurhythmics and Music Education of the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź. In the current issue, next to the already known sections, one can find a new one – **From experience** – wherein music teachers, music education methodologists and music therapists will share their experiences gained while providing music education.

In the first section – **Dissertations and academic papers** – two articles have been presented. In the first one, titled *Sight singing in musical ear training – didactic and artistic dimensions of a compositional project* (p. 11–27), **ANNA KĘDZIERSKA** presents a compositional project commenced in 2014, as a result of which two collections of miniatures intended for sight-reading are to be created. The author describes selected exercises and pieces realized within the first stage of the project. In the article on *The position of a music teacher and the subject of Music within teaching environment of the Polish educational system (primary, middle and secondary schools)* (p. 29–45), **BEATA KAMIŃSKA** made an attempt to answer the questions about an extent to which a music teacher can influence students' achievements in particular school subjects and the importance of music teaching at school in view of pupils' overall upbringing and education.

In the second section – **Young people's forum** – four texts have been published. In the article entitled *Amusia and perfect pitch versus cognitive abilities in children. A contribution to the research* (p. 49–60), **AGATA GÓRZYŃSKA** describes her pilot tests, the aim of which was to identify the factors that could potentially affect the development of a specific type of musical ear in children, as well as to show differences in skills and abilities of the children with perfect pitch and those with amusia. *In search of balance and harmony. The ethos of conductor-ensemble integration and cooperation* (p. 61–66) is an article where **WIKTORIA BATAROWSKA** focuses attention on the importance of a conductor's role and the significance of skilful cooperation with a musical ensemble. A similar topic is discussed both by **MICHAŁ CZUBASZEK** in his article on *Interactions between a conductor and ensemble in psychological and social contexts* (p. 67–74) and by **KAROL PYKA** in the article on the *Selected problems of conducting techniques based on the*

*repertoire of the Representative Brass Band of AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow* (p. 75–90).

In a new section – **From experience** – there have been published three texts: *Conductor and pedagogue – is that enough to start and direct a choir in comprehensive schools? The place and importance of choral music in comprehensive schools – past, present, future* by **KRZYSZTOF KOZŁOWSKI** (p. 93–97); *The development of a conductor's personality in terms of technique and means of artistic expression* by **WALDEMAR SUTRYK** (p. 99–102) and *Overcoming many-sided barriers in the process of teaching young, aspiring singers in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-degree music schools and on a higher education level* by **BOŻENA WAGNER** (p. 103–110).

In the fourth section – **Reviews and reports** – there are four articles: two accounts of academic seminars, one of an academic conference and one report on a solfège competition. On 26<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the Interacademic Chair of Ear Training based at Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw held the All-Poland Academic Seminar entitled “About a musical work – from an ear training perspective” (p. 113–114). The next report covers the All-Poland Academic Seminar on “The importance of voice in a teacher's and conductor's work” organized on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015 by the Chair of Music Education of the Academy of Music in Łódź and the Audiology and Phoniatrics Clinic of the Occupational Health Institute in Łódź (p. 115–116). On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the All-Poland Academic Conference titled “Culture and its development versus chamber music-making and changes in art education” was organized by the Association of Polish Chamber Musicians, the 1<sup>st</sup>-degree Music School in Dobczyce, the Chair of Chamber Music of the Academy of Music in Kraków and the Town and Community Council of Dobczyce near Kraków (p. 117–122). On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015, the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Franciszek Wesółowski Solfège Competition for secondary music school pupils from the Łódź region took place. The competition was organized by the Henryk Wieniawski Comprehensive Primary and Secondary Music Schools in Łódź in cooperation with the Research Unit for Aural Perception of Music of the G. and K. Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź (p. 123–124).

You are kindly welcome to read the texts and also publish with us!

Editor-in-Chief

Ewa Kumik