

Dear Readers,

We are presenting you hereby the fifth (jubilee) 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. You will find here interesting articles divided into fixed, topic-related sections. Authors of the presented articles share their expertise, academic research findings and personal hands-on experience gained while working within a broadly defined music education system; they also provide information on interesting academic conferences.

In the first section, **Dissertations and Academic Articles**, we have published seven texts. The first, *Towards the employment of mirror neurons in music education* (p. 11–30), is a follow-up to the discussion commenced by **Zdzisława Szczech** in the 4th issue of our journal on the need for changes in the field of music education, inspired by the philosophical reflection of Jürgen Habermas. This time we have an opportunity to be introduced to the Author's reflections on the functioning of mirror neurons and employing them in music teaching. In the article titled *Traditional music in regional education from the perspective of historical and contemporary teaching concepts* (p. 31–44), **Violetta Przeremska** emphasizes the significance of traditional folk music for both in-school and after-school regional education of children and youth. An important role of singing in early-school education is indicated by **Alicja Kozłowska-Lewna** in her article *Singing in view of interdisciplinary empirical research and theoretical reflections* (p. 45–61). The article by **Magdalena Grajter** – *Technology in the service of ear training at the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź* (p. 63–73) discusses the achievements of Prof. Feliks Flis and methods of applying technological advances for teaching the subject of “ear training” in music schools. Personal reflections concerning the music education system in Poland as well as collective playing, sight reading, improvisation, 20th- and 21st-century music are the main fields of discussion in the article by **Piotr Różański** titled *New paths in a musician's training – reflections of an instrumentalist* (p. 75–84). **Dominika Lenska** draws our attention to a crucial role of parents in the process of sensitizing their children to music in her article *Stimulated development of parents-related sensitization of children to music – based on the experiences of music institutions from Katowice* (p. 85–96). Various styles of directing an orchestra, conductor's qualities and his/her relations with

orchestra musicians are described by **Stella Kaczmarek** in her article titled *Authoritarian-charismatic style of leading an orchestra and its artistic level* (p. 97–119).

The second section, **Young People's Forum**, comprises the text by **Monika Gubała** *Music school as a culture-promoting institution* (p. 123–137), wherein the Author presents an educational project, musical-children's opera entitled "Musical Postcards", effectuated by the local community of Dobczyce.

In the **From Experience** section we have published one article: *Characteristics of violin students' training at Keimyung University in Daegu (South Korea) and the Frederic Chopin University of Music in Warsaw – based on a teacher's experience* (p. 141–153). **Agnieszka Marucha** presents therein her own observations concerning Polish and Korean students' training, made in the course of her teaching career.

In the fourth section, **Reviews and Reports**, there are two texts. **Anna Wójcikowska** gives an account of the 7th All-Poland Solfeggio Conference titled *21st century in ear training: styles, tendencies, methods*, which was held on November 19th, 2016 in the Stefan Stuligrosz Auditorium at the I. J. Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań. The conference was intended mainly for 2nd-level music school teachers and academic lecturers. **Ewa Kochanowska** presents, in turn, a report on the 2nd All-Poland Academic Conference from the "Culture-Music-Education" series, which was held on November 21st, 2016 at the University of Bielsko-Biała [Akademia Techniczno-Humanistyczna w Bielsku-Białej]. The keynote of this year's conference was *Educational contexts of experiencing the world of art*.

We hope you will enjoy reading our articles and feel welcome to publish your texts with us, too.

The Editor-in-Chief
Ewa Kumik