



A Musical Journey

Svetlana Avdala

Pancho Vladigerov Museum House (Bulgaria)

svetlajav@abv.bg

The venue is a museum interior [1]. The participants are children from kindergartens and primary schools, musical academy students, museum curators, teachers of music, a methodologist - researcher, etc. The goal of the project is to stimulate and provoke children to listen to sounds, to relate them with certain images, to organize them in rhythmic schemes, and construct via them a musical picture and dancing or singing accompaniment. It aims at further development of students' skills, presupposes connection of diverse musical pictures and organizing an imaginary journey. It starts with published fairy tails and stories. Later on the children themselves make up stories and subject plot moves. They get into different places –travel in time and space by various means of transportation. On their way, they learn about various composers and musical practices. During the journey they are introduced to brief multimedia presentations about renowned composers and musical works. Children participate in these learning happenings not only by suggesting places and means of fulfilling the journey, but by making music, chanting, clattering, accompanying, and thus creating the musical setting of the stories with onomatopoetic instruments. The workshop is directed by teachers and pianists, who assign the tasks, summarize and organize children's ideas, and compliment the notion of everything that could not be seen or perceived in the hall, by stories, and video or audio illustrations. They illustrate the happenings by examples from world and Bulgarian music, demonstrated by audio and video records, or played live by a pianist-improviser, a composition student from the Musical Academy "Pancho Vladigerov".

In front of the children, the student-musician improvises on piano various themes - examples from world and Bulgarian music. Thus, he or she demonstrates by live performance not only the music, but illustrates diverse historically existing musical practices. The happening is also joined by the museum curators with stories, photographs and other exponents from the Museum fund. Everything happening during the workshop is recorded with a video-camera, to later serve as a resource for music teachers. By the end of this museum interior workshop assignments are given: to think of key words, favorite tunes and melodies, rhythmic schemes, images and ideas for preparing the elements – stories and onomatopoetic instruments – of the next musical journey, the next workshop within the museum interior. The preparatory work is done locally in the schools and kindergartens under the guidance of music teachers, and the fitting of the musical pieces is done in the museum interior, guided by a lector, student musicians and museum curators. The workshop activities are monitored by a Methodist. The creative product of the workshop participants is by the end of the day presented to parents' audience during various festive occasions.