



aeiforum

Music Education in Greece

Music excites us because it taps on a wide range of feelings such as joy, satisfaction, fullness, happiness, enthusiasm. It also, contributes to our cognitive and emotional development as well as to the social integration of younger generations. Furthermore, participation in musical activities contributes to social cohesion and it can be helpful in the development of social behavior. Because of that, it is an undeniable fact that participation in any kind of musical activities offers a sense of individual and collective well-being. Active participation in music can help young people develop empathy and awareness of important social issues, while, at the same time, enabling them to appreciate and contribute to the world cultural heritage.

Music Education has been an integral part of the educational process since ancient times. In its effort to modernize music education, Greece has adopted a multidisciplinary / interdisciplinary approach in the design and the implementation of a new curriculum. The organization and the development of music education in Greece follow international trends in the field. In addition, there is an attempt to update teaching methods by adopting techniques and successfully implemented programs in other countries. Of course, it is very important that these programs are adapted to the specific conditions of our country.

In recent years, there has been an effort by many intellectuals, researchers, music teachers, organizations and associations of the field to support publicly the importance of music education stressing the vital role that music plays in human life.

It is generally believed that music is an integral part of human existence, of the history of humanity and of human civilization. In addition to this, with the help of music, human beings can express their feelings thus transforming mere existence into an enjoyable and aesthetic life experience. The value of music and its power remain unique. The teaching of music can achieve a number of important pedagogical goals and objectives such as cultural heritage transition, creation and preservation of culture, acquisition of experiences and understanding of concepts which are not accessible in any other way. It is also a means towards developing critical thinking, which leads to control over our life, the creation of individual and group identity, cooperation, tolerance and dissemination of moral values, comprehension of the unknown and many more.

Music studies are divided into two categories: theoretical studies (leading to diplomas in Singing, Harmony, Orchestration, etc) and specific instrument studies (playing the piano, the guitar, the violin, the clarinet, etc.). In Greece, music education, almost in its entirety, has been assigned to the private sector, apart from a few cases of municipal music schools, in cities such as Thessaloniki.



Consequently, students have to pay tuition fees. In addition, the best musical academies in Greece are private and operate under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture. This supervision includes monitoring annual examinations and, in particular, diploma examinations. In the latter, candidates are examined by a committee which includes representatives of the Ministry of Culture (but not of the Ministry of Education).

Because of that, for any music diploma to be accredited, it must bear the seal of the Ministry of Culture. However, music academies are not classified and as a result there are accreditation problems with the diplomas awarded by them, mainly due to the lack of a common framework. Musicology schools do not offer diplomas in musical instruments, but only in music theory.

At university level, there are faculties in the University of Athens, the University of Thessaloniki and the Ionian University. There is also a faculty of traditional musical instruments in the Technological Educational Institute of xxxxx

Music schools

Music High Schools, created at the begging of the 2000's, are an important educational innovation in Greece. Today there are 34 music middle schools and 14 music high schools in operation. Candidates have to sit entry examinations. The selection is based on the vocal and acoustic ability of the candidates, as well as their skill in playing a musical instrument. Apart from the set general education curriculum courses, there are theoretical and practical courses of European and Byzantine music, piano, snare drum, plus one more instrument of the student's choice. Students are also taught history of chorus music while they participate in music groups at the school. They are transferred to and from school by shuttle bus and are offered free lunch. Graduates take part in the national university entry examinations and, upon success; they can enroll in the faculty of their choice. The Artistic Committee of the Ministry of Education (formed under Minister's Decision Γ2 3345/2-9-88) acts as a consulting body. According to the afore-mentioned decision, "The Ministry is to form a five-member committee comprising of experts in the fields of musical education. The task of this committee is to monitor the programs in musical schools, to handle matters pertaining to the operation of these schools such as equipment and student assessment and to conduct the general evaluation process of the music schools".

The institutional framework of the foundation and operation of music schools in Greece.

The institutional framework of music schools in our country is determined by law 1824/1988 (N. 1824-ΦΕΚ 296/30-12-1988), which mentions that the official purpose of their foundation is the education of young students who wish to follow a professional career in music (article 1). It is also mentioned in detail in Minister's Decision Γ2/3850/16-6-1998 (ΦΕΚ 658B/1-7-1998).



Bibliography

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