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CHALLENGES OF ONLINE EDUCATION IN MACEDONIA IN THE SUBJECTS OF MUSIC EDUCATION AND MUSICAL ARTS

Emilija Ristevska Stefanovska
Faculty of Education, University „St. Kliment Ohridski", Republic of North Macedonia
ristevskastefanovska@yahoo.com

Abstract
This study examines the application and challenges of online education in the field of music education and art. With the development of new technologies and the internet, online education becomes increasingly prevalent in the educational system. The study provides an analysis of various sources to identify the methods and tools used for the successful implementation of online education in music education and art. These methods include real-time virtual classes, video lectures, and virtual musical instruments. The research also reveals challenges associated with the use of these methods, such as technical issues, limited interaction, and access to resources. In the final part of the study, strategies are proposed to overcome these challenges and improve the effectiveness of online education in music education and art.
Keywords: online education, music education, musical art.

INTRODUCTION

The period before the emergence of online learning (Bruck-Pirija, 2016; Lasić-Lazić, 2016; Nadrljanski, 2016) was a time of significant technological changes in human civilization. The development of computer technology, the internet, and digital communication means not only signified technical progress but also dramatic changes in the way people live and work.

In education, these changes significantly altered standards and expectations. Educational institutions faced the need to adapt classical teaching methods. Then, the need for the integration of information and communication technologies in the learning of students appeared.

One of the most secure ways to achieve this is through electronic or online learning, which implies the use of various digital tools and education platforms. This enabled learning to be eased and enhanced using interactive content, video lectures, assignments, and many other methods.

The implementation of online education has created various forms of learning, such as traditional classroom teaching, ICT-assisted teaching, hybrid teaching, and fully online teaching. Each of these forms has its advantages and challenges, but they all enable access to better education, in line with modern technologies and the needs of students.

E-learning today finds application even in situations where there is no physical distance between teachers and students. Computer technology is used to better visualize certain processes and as additional stimulation to traditional learning methods. This allows teachers to create interactive and engaging lectures and other educational resources that increase student engagement and motivation. With the help of various visual and interactive tools, students have the opportunity to learn in ways that are interesting, thus improving their learning and understanding abilities. This transforms the traditional model of learning into a process that meets the needs of modern students and teachers.

ADVANTAGES OF ONLINE LEARNING IN MUSIC EDUCATION AND ARTS

Online learning in music education and art offers many advantages that open doors to new opportunities and experiences for students:

The first advantage: Online learning provides accessibility and flexibility. Students easily access instructional content and study it at their own chosen time and space. Learning is structured and

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adapted to a variety of students with different needs. This flexibility significantly facilitates access to education for students with various commitments and resources.

Moreover, online learning allows students to study music from their homes, without the need for physical presence in music studios or schools. This represents a change in the way of learning and accessing education, making it easier and enriching the experience for students, making learning more adaptable to the needs of modern lifestyles.

The second advantage: Online learning offers a vast amount of information available through online platforms. In this way, students can access various videos, audio recordings, interactive tools, and other materials that enrich their learning.

Online platforms enable students to access diverse videos and audio recordings showcasing different techniques and styles of musical performance. This allows students to see and hear various types of musical performance, which will inspire and stimulate their learning.

The interactive tools available through online learning enable students to practice various aspects of musical performance, such as instrument playing techniques, music theory, and composition. These tools enrich students' experiences.

The abundance of online information allows students to enhance their musical and aesthetic knowledge, improve their music performance skills, and explore different methods of musical performance. This contributes to the richness and quality of their learning in the field of music, utilizing a wide range of necessary information available through online platforms. Students can access videos, audio recordings, interactive tools, and other materials enriching their learning and introducing them to various methods of musical artistic performance.

The third advantage: Online learning offers the possibility of collaborative learning (Johnson, 1999) and sharing experiences among students. Through online platforms, students can collaborate, share their musical performances, give and receive information from their friends, enriching their knowledge and improving their skills and performances. Collaborative learning through online education allows students to create joint projects, increasing motivation and engagement. Sharing experiences and knowledge among students can lead to different perspectives and approaches to musical artistic performance, enriching student experiences and developing their creativity.

Also, through collaborative learning, students can receive feedback from their teachers, helping them improve their performance. This encourages students to collaborate, share ideas, and expand their knowledge in the field of music.

All these advantages make online learning in music education and art innovative and inspirational, opening doors to new ways of developing students' musical talents and skills.

ADVANTAGES OF ONLINE LEARNING IN MUSIC EDUCATION AND ARTS	
First advantage:	Availability and flexibility
Second advantage:	Vast amount of information
Third advantage:	Collaborative learning and sharing experiences

VARIOUS TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR THE NEEDS OF MUSIC EDUCATION AND ART

In online learning for music education and art, there are various tools and resources that enrich students' knowledge and develop their musical skills. Some of the notable tools include:

1. **Music Software:** Specialized computer programs for music composition and arranging, such as Sibelius, Finale, MuseScore, and GarageBand, allow students to create and arrange music on their computers.

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2. **Virtual Musical Instruments:** Online platforms like Virtual Piano, Virtual Drum Kit, and Virtual Guitar enable students to play and practice on different musical instruments through the computer, without the need for physical instruments.

3. **Video Instructional Content:** Websites like YouTube and Vimeo offer a wide selection of video lectures, tutorials, and performances by professional musicians and experts, enriching students' experiences.

4. **Music E-books and Online Resources:** Various online resources and e-books, such as IMSLP (International Music Score Library Project) and MusicTheory.net, provide students with free sheet music content, music theory, and exercises.

5. **Virtual Music Courses and Webinars:** Platforms like Coursera, Udemy, and Skillshare offer various online courses and webinars for music education and art, where students have the opportunity for learning from home, interaction, and communication with experienced musicians.

Various tools and resources for the needs of music education and art	
Music Software	Sibelius, Finale, MuseScore, GarageBand
Virtual Musical Instruments	Virtual Piano, Virtual Drum Kit, Virtual Guitar
Video Instructional Content	YouTube, Vimeo
Music E-books and Online Resources	IMSLP (International Music Score Library Project), MusicTheory.net
Virtual Music Courses and Webinars	Coursera, Udemy, Skillshare

For successful participation in online learning for music education and art, students should have the following tools:

1. **Computer or Smartphone:** To access online resources and tools, students need a computer, tablet, or smartphone with an internet connection.

2. **Headphones or Speakers:** For listening to musical pieces, exercises, or lectures, students need headphones or speakers for their computer.

3. **Music Composition Software and Tools:** For composing music as part of the curriculum, students need access to music composition programs such as Sibelius, Finale, or MuseScore.

4. **Web Browser:** To access online resources, lectures, and exercises, students will need a web browser like Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari.

5. **Communication Tools:** For communication with teachers and classmates, students use communication tools like email, chat, or video conferencing tools such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

6. **Musical Instruments (as needed):** Depending on the type of instruction and curriculum, students may require online musical instruments for practice and performing assigned exercises.

With access to the above tools, students can engage and successfully participate in online learning for music education and art.

In Macedonia, students studying music education and art can use various tools and resources to enhance their learning. Some of the current tools being used include:

Music Software: Students can use music software such as MuseScore or Noteflight for computer-based music composition.

Audio and Video Resources: Websites like YouTube, SoundCloud, and Spotify are used to access various audio and video recordings of musical pieces, concerts, historical recordings, and other relevant materials.

Virtual Musical Instruments: Virtual musical instruments like Virtual Piano, Virtual Drum Kit, and Virtual Guitar are available online and can be useful for practice and experimentation with different instruments.

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Educational Platforms: In some cases, students may access specific educational platforms or portals that offer lectures, exercises, tests, and other learning resources for music education, such as eLearning.mk, OpenCourseWare, Edmodo, Center for Educational Technology (CET), Channel 77 Education, and others.

Web Applications for Music Theory: Web applications like Teoria and MusicTheory.net provide interactive exercises and lectures for learning music theory, including notation, harmony, rhythm, and more.

Virtual Learning Platforms: Some schools may use virtual learning platforms like Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams for posting materials, communication with teachers and classmates, and assignment submissions.

These are just some of the current tools used in Macedonia for learning music education and art, and there may be other resources and platforms in use according to the needs of students and teachers.

In Macedonia, there are several platforms with educational content for music education and art that students can use. Some of them are:

"Uci.mk"(Учи.мк): This platform is part of the "E-Education" project and provides various educational content for all subjects, including music education and art. Here, students can find learning materials, exercises, tests, and video lectures for music education and art.

"E-School" (Е-Училиште): This platform provides access to various educational content for all levels of education, including music education and art. Students can find materials, tests, solved problems, and other learning resources.

"I Conquer" (Освојувам): This platform is dedicated to online learning and provides various educational content for students. It has content for various subjects, including music education and art, offering necessary exercises, tests, and video materials.

The above are some of the Macedonian platforms with educational content that can be useful for students in the field of music education and art, depending on the needs and choices of schools or teachers.

STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES

Technical issues, lack of interaction, limited internet access - these are some of the challenges that would pose obstacles to the successful implementation of online teaching in music education and artistic music. Developing stable technical infrastructures, creating interactive school environments, and ensuring access to a variety of music resources are some of the strategies for overcoming the challenges in online teaching.

In Macedonia, online teaching in the field of music education and music art has started to gain significance and application, especially in recent years. With the rapid advancement of technology and the development of the internet, many schools and music schools have begun to use various online platforms and tools to transfer their teaching curriculum to a virtual environment.

Experiences in Macedonia with online teaching in music education involve various approaches and models. Some schools and music schools organize live virtual classes through video platforms, where teachers can conduct classes with students in real-time. Additionally, video lectures and instructions are used, which students can watch at their convenience, allowing flexibility in learning.

However, despite significant progress, we also face several challenges in implementing online teaching in music education in Macedonia. Some of the challenges include technical issues such as unstable internet connections, malfunctioning software tools, lack of interaction and communication between teachers and students, as well as limited access to certain music tools and materials needed for learning.

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Nevertheless, there is growing interest and engagement from educational institutions, teachers, and students to develop and improve online teaching in the field of music education in Macedonia.

CONCLUSION

Online teaching has the potential to enhance learning in subjects such as music education and art, but to harness this potential, it is necessary to overcome challenges and develop effective strategies for integrating technology into schools.

With the emergence of new technologies and the advancement of the internet, online teaching is constantly gaining importance in the educational system. This transformation has a significant impact on the way students learn and the subjects they study. In this context, in subjects like music education and art, there are challenges and opportunities for innovation and adaptation to the new reality. This effort seeks to identify and examine aspects of the implementation of online teaching in these subjects, as well as to study the challenges faced by teachers and students in this context.

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