# **Képzés és Gyakorlat** Training & Practice

20. évfolyam, 2022/1-2. szám

#### Képzés és Gyakorlat

A Magyar Agrár- és Élettudományi Egyetem Kaposvári Campus Neveléstudományi Intézetének és a Soproni Egyetem Benedek Elek Pedagógiai Karának neveléstudományi folyóirata

20. évfolyam 2022/1-2. szám

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20. évfolyam, 2022/1–2. szám Volume 20, 2022 Issue 1–2.

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## HORVÁTH, KATALIN<sup>1</sup>

## Teaching Creative Musical Skills: Different Ways of Development in Instrumental Music Education

Empirical research provides an opportunity to examine the methods that flute teachers use in music lessons. A questionnaire survey is used to investigate these methods. Research questions are the following: how widespread the use of music creation exercises and games is and how much flute teachers use these exercises in their teaching practice. The research was conducted using the online questionnaire builder Survio and the multivariate scaling method by SPSS to evaluate the results. We expected a low score for creative music creation because of the lack of time and of methodological knowledge. According to the results, there is a need for a different approach to music education based on creative improvisation methods. Finally, some important suggestions that can be incorporated into the daily work of music teachers will be discussed.

#### 1. Empirical research, questionnaire

#### 1.1. Methodological ideas, hypotheses

In the questionnaire part of the empirical research, I examined the flute teachers' opinions on the questions asked. A questionnaire was designed to obtain information. Data collection is the way to gain insights. I asked questions about issues that are problematic in flute teaching today, especially in the areas of music creation and improvisation. I wanted to find out how widespread the use of music creation tasks and games is, what kinds of tasks music teachers prefer, and how suitable existing flute schools are for the development of music creation tasks.

The questionnaire consists of statements and methodological procedures on which the flute teachers give their opinions, and measures how much they use the exercises in their teaching. The opinions are summarised to provide information on what they think can be incorporated into their daily work and how the methods can be put into practice.

Today's music education focuses on technical and musical skills. I took this as a basis and conducted a pilot survey in 2018. The survey was created with the online questionnaire builder Survio and uploaded to the internet via a distribution portal on 18 November 2018, and the questionnaire was completed on 6 December 2018. The questionnaire was mainly designed for flute teachers in Hungarian music schools. The headmasters of 736 schools (where there is also art education) received an e-mail requesting them to forward the questionnaire (including the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> PhD student at the University of Pécs Doctoral School of Education; email: *fuvikati@gmail.com* 

link to the questionnaire and the file format) to their flute teachers. There was a lot of feedback from school principals that there was no music teaching or flute teacher in their art branch. The President of the Association of Hungarian Music Schools also published the questionnaire on an internet portal and asked colleagues to fill it in. A total of 125 replies were received. The sample of 125 respondents is sufficient to represent the opinion of flute teachers at the basic level, taking into account the characteristics and homogeneity of the population surveyed. Statistical analysis of the results was carried out using SPSS software.

### **Hypotheses:**

Our main skill-building aspect, music creation, was based on a preliminary hypothesis: does the teacher use music creation tasks in the music classroom?

(1) hypothesis

In the questionnaire survey, a question on music creation will result in a low average score. We expect a low score for music creation because, due to lack of time and methodological knowledge, we believe that teachers do not undertake its use in instrumental lessons.

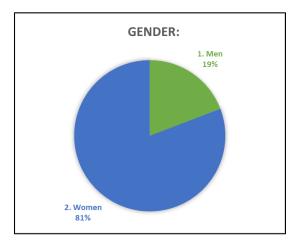
(2) hypothesis

In the questionnaire survey, musical creativity requires a creative teaching personality and a creative methodological toolkit.

A high score is expected, as the role and methodological tools of a creative and resourceful teacher are essential for the realisation of creative music creation tasks.

## 1.2. Questions of the questionnaire

According to the first question, 24 men (19.2%) and 101 (80.8%) women answered the questions asked, as shown in the first graph.



**Diagram 1: Gender** 

The number of years in teaching is broken down as follows: more than 20 years -60 candidates, 48%; between 11 and 20 years -27 candidates, 21.6%; between 6 and 10 years -15 candidates, 12%; and between 0 and 5 years -23 candidates, 18.4% of those with teaching experience. This is shown in Diagram 2.



Diagram 2: How many years of teaching experience do you have?

To the third question, "*Have you ever been to a training course on improvisation*?", 31 (24.8%) answered 'yes', 92 (73.6%) answered 'no'. Eight teachers, 6.4%, have attended more than one training. A remarkable proportion is shown in Diagram 3.

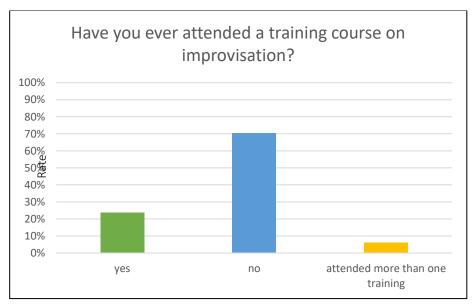


Diagram 3: Have you ever attended a training course on improvisation?

Question four is "What do you mean by improvisation?" As shown in Diagram 4, the answer of 111 teachers, 88.8%, was 'impromptu'.

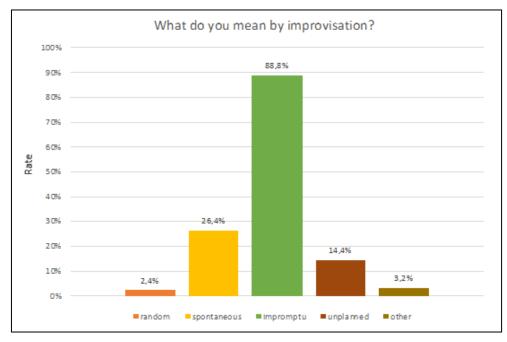


Diagram 4: What do you mean by improvisation?

When asked whether the music teacher uses music creation tasks in his or her teaching, or creates opportunities for the student to create music, the figures show higher than expected results. Out of the three possible answers (yes; sometimes; no), 'no' (12.8%) and 'sometimes' (42.4%) were the options chosen, while 'yes' was chosen by most teachers (44.8%). Those who do engage in music creation in their teaching could indicate several task types listed as most frequently used.

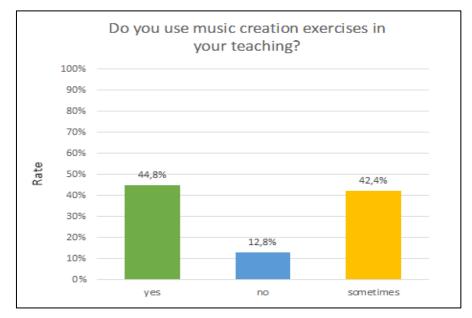


Diagram 5: Do you use music creation exercises in your teaching?

For the sixth question, those who use music creation tasks, the types of tasks given are: inventing a melody accompaniment, question-answer with melody, completing a rhythm, varying a rhythm, inventing a rhythm accompaniment, completing a melody, inventing a melody with a given set of sounds, question-answer playing with rhythm, compositional tasks, other. The top response option was 'inventing a melody with a given set of notes' with 51.2%, followed by 'question-answer game with melody' with 46.4%. The other seven tasks achieved significantly fewer and roughly equal vote shares (between 16% and 38%). An interesting feature is the other music creation task: playing the same motif in a different key, which means that transposition appears in the case of some pupils.

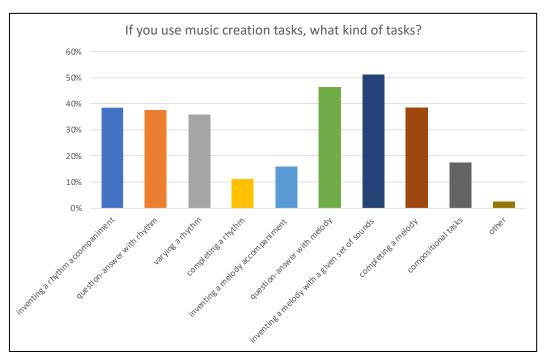


Diagram 6: If you use music creation tasks, what kind of tasks?

Another question I asked from teachers who use music creation tasks was how they see the importance of such tasks. Once again, the respondents were given the choice to pick more than one of the ten options: music creation tasks provide relaxation during the lesson, improve musical thinking, help the pupil understand the logic of the music, help the interpretation of the piece, help correct a technical problem; pupils can play freely, play together, practice the new knowledge with their peers under certain constraints, they can show their emotions in the task; or other.

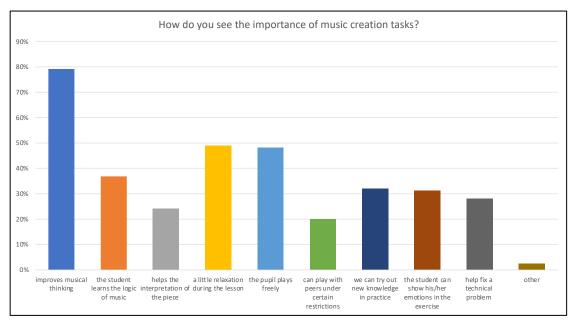


Diagram 7: How do you see the importance of music creation tasks?

The answer 'improves musical thinking' received the highest number of votes, with more than half of the teachers (79.2%) indicating it. In second place (48.8%) was the statement 'a little relaxation during the lesson.' Others included developing creativity, transfer effect in creativity, and releasing inhibitions.

When asked about the music pedagogical methods they know, Kodály, Kokas and Orff were the most frequently mentioned.

What forms of teaching do you know? 119 teachers preferred the individual form, 95.2 % of the respondents indicated this form, 67 teachers, 53.6 % indicated the pair form, and 65 teachers, 52% indicated the group form.

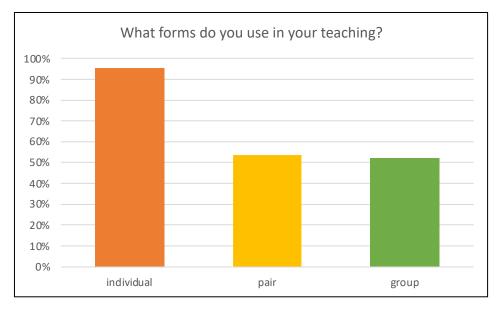


Diagram 8: What forms do you use in your teaching?

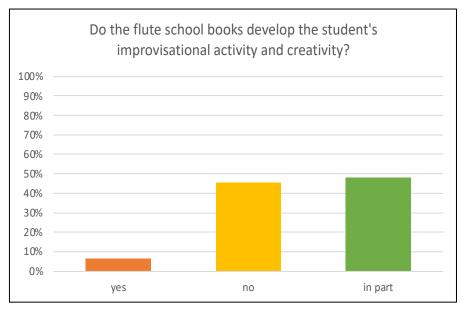
Teachers' examples of children's spontaneous music creation:

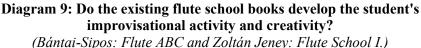
"We try improvisation with a very shy pupil. It turns out that he has a good sense for it. He can choose a note he likes and play with the notes around it. He chooses the note G and uses the notes very well in his improvisation. He then tackles the lesson material in a relaxed, easy, open way. His improvisation and playing is becoming more and more free."

"Composition homework helps the child's auditory development, after half a year he automatically develops a sense of major tonality, of course in a very narrow range of tones. At the same time, his activity and musical motivation in solfege lessons soar, and his singing becomes clearer."

"Between two pupils' lessons, the teacher leaves the room, one pupil finishes the lesson and clears away, the other arrives and prepares for the lesson. By the time the teacher returns, the two are playing together the song 'Hail up Sun'. The more experienced student helps the younger one and they play together. It was not a question of who could play the flute better or more perfectly, but the experience itself."

The next question is "Do the existing flute schools develop the improvisation activities of the student?" Only 6.4% of the respondents, eight teachers, answered 'yes,' 45.6%, 57 teachers answered 'no,' and 48%, 60 teachers answered 'partially.' This suggests the need for new methodological publications with a focus on improvisation activities.





What do you propose to improve the existing flute schools?

We definitely need creative, open-minded teachers. Improvisation exercises should be included after a specific part of the curriculum. In addition to using existing sheet music, improvisation should be made part of the lesson. By answering the questions in the questionnaire, we can gain insight into the teaching and learning work of music teachers, which is useful for all of us, as there is no comprehensive research on this. Improvisation and music creation have not yet gained a foothold in practical teaching, despite the importance attached to it by teachers and musicologists.

#### 2. Association coefficients, multidimensional scaling

A surprisingly high number of respondents (10, 12) answered the explanatory questions, so we thought that something could be done statistically. The really exciting question is: which answers go together? We used the following method: first we read all the answers, then we wrote down a one-word description of them on a sheet of paper (11 for question 10, 13 for question 12), wrote the answers on numbered slips of paper, grouping them on the sheet of paper. The resulting numbers were used to perform a Yule association test in an Excel spreadsheet. Statistical analysis of the questionnaire results was carried out using SPSS. To understand the Yule association coefficient can be found in Méhesné Szilvia Berek's PhD thesis (2016).

Association: used to examine the relationship between two qualitative criteria. It shows whether there is a relationship between the two variables. The closeness of the association is described by a measure of the relationship between the two variables. It can only be used for alternative criteria (2-variable). In this case the combination table is 2x2. Characteristics of Yule's association coefficient:

- is only suitable for measuring the closeness of the relationship between alternative criteria;
- is based on the idea of testing with coordination ratios;
- for alternative criteria, we denote one variant of the criterion by 1 and the other variant by 0;
- is between -1 and +1;
- Y=0 independence;
- Y=|1| functional relationship

	<b>B</b> (1)	<b>B</b> (0)	Total
A (1)	$f_{_{II}}$	$f_{_{IO}}$	$f_{_{l.}}$
A (0)	$f_{_{OI}}$	$f_{_{00}}$	f <sub>a</sub>
Total	$f_{_{.1}}$	$f_{0}$	n

Table 1: Yule's association coefficient combination table<sup>2</sup>

If there is no relationship between the two alternative criteria, then the corresponding coordination ratios are equal, i.e:

$$\frac{\mathbf{f}_{10}}{\mathbf{f}_{11}} = \frac{\mathbf{f}_{00}}{\mathbf{f}_{01}}$$

The equality can be transformed as follows, in the case of independence:

$$f_{10} \cdot f_{01} = f_{11} \cdot f_{00} \Longrightarrow f_{11} \cdot f_{00} - f_{10} \cdot f_{01} = 0$$

If there is a relationship between the criteria:

$$Y = \frac{f_{11}f_{00} - f_{10}f_{01}}{f_{11}f_{00} + f_{10}f_{01}}$$

#### Interpretation of Yule's association coefficient:

- |Y|=0 independence
- 0 < |Y| < 0.3 low-strength connection
- 0.3<|Y|<0.7 medium strength of connection
- 0.7 < |Y| < 1 close relationship
- |Y|=1 functional relationship
- Y>0 if criteria with the same index attract each other

"Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) can be seen as an alternative to factor analysis. Generally speaking, statistical analysis aims to identify meaningful dimensions that allow the researcher to explain similarities or differences (distances) between the objects under investigation." (Huszár 2009, 88)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Source : <u>www.gtk.unimiskolc.hu/files/4108/3 hét asszociáció.ppt</u>, downloaded on 28 Sep 2019.

The significance of multidimensional scaling is that it can be used to analyse any kind of similarity or distance matrix, and the similarities expressed in the matrix can be individual or group opinions about a wide variety of objects. A detailed explanation of multidimensional scaling; (MDS) can be found in Zsuzsanna Huszár's PhD thesis (2009).

## 2. 1. Processing the answers to question 10

108 respondents answered the question. 18 did not respond to the question in substance, 10 gave individual (unique) answers. These responses were excluded from further analysis and the remaining 80 responses were analysed statistically. The following elements were found in the responses, distributed as follows:

	all mentions	by itself	with another	more together
songwriting	26	17	6	3
music for pleasure	15	11	3	1
known song on an instrument	12	6	5	1
improvisation	11	7	2	2
sound set	10	0	6	4
other instrument	10	3	6	1
experimentation	8	3	5	0
another part	8	2	4	2
continued at	6	2	2	2
rhythm formula	4	0	1	3
game	4	3	0	1

#### Table 2: Results of the answers to question 10 of the questionnaire survey

The table shows that 53 teachers mentioned only one item. The association matrix calculated on the basis of co-occurrences is highly incomplete because not all pairings occurred. (The -1s in the association matrix indicate missing pairs.) The other Yule coefficients that can be evaluated allow the following findings.

	Yule's Y Coefficient of Colligation				
		rhythm			
	sound set	formula	continuedat	experimentation	songwriting
sound set	1.000	.731	.180	.092	.415
rhythm formula	.731	1.000	.667	-1.000	.292
continued at	.180	.667	1.000	-1.000	121
experimentation	.092	-1.000	-1.000	1.000	-1.000
songwriting	.415	.292	121	-1.000	1.000
improvisation	006	-1.000	-1.000	.063	-1.000
music for pleasure	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000
known song on an instrument	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	.036	326
other instrument	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	.324	-1.000
another part	.092	-1.000	.245	-1.000	209
game	-1.000	-1.000	.440	-1.000	-1.000

Table 3: Proximity Matrix (association matrix) results

		Yule's Y Coefficient of Colligation					
		music for a known song on other					
	improvisation	pleasure	an instrument	instrument			
sound set	006	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000			
rhythm formula	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000			
continued at	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000			
experimentation	.063	-1.000	.036	.324			
songwriting	-1.000	-1.000	326	-1.000			
improvisation	1.000	130	061	006			
music for pleasure	130	1.000	-1.000	.393			
known song on an instrument	061	-1.000	1.000	032			
other instrument	006	.393	032	1.000			
another part	.063	-1.000	.422	-1.000			
game	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000			

	Yule's Y Coefficient of Colligation			
	another part Game			
sound set	.092	-1.000		
rhythm formula	-1.000	-1.000		
continued at	.245	<mark>.440</mark>		
experimentation	-1.000	-1.000		
songwriting	209	-1.000		
improvisation	.063	-1.000		
music for pleasure	-1.000	-1.000		
known song on an instrument	.422	-1.000		
other instrument	-1.000	-1.000		
another part	1.000	.365		
game	.365	1.000		

Table 5: Proximity Matrix (association matrix) results

The definition of the soundset and the rhythm pattern are strongly linked. In experimentation, the other instrument is clearly the inspiration. It is interesting how the melodic composition is in contrast with the continuation and the other instrument.

There is a medium correlation between playing and continuation. It can be concluded that improvisation tasks should be given to children in a playful form, e.g., ending the suffix of the end of a period. Unfortunately, jamming was only associated with improvisation and other instruments based on the responses, but there is clearly strength in the involvement of partners and other instruments.

Multidimensional scale results:

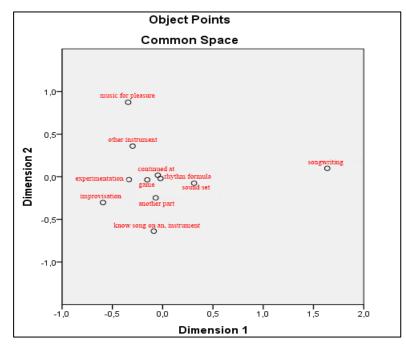


Figure 1: Multidimensional scale representation

Multidimensional scaling on a small amount of data yielded interesting results, confirming our previous findings. The methods mentioned are in a group — one could say they are technical elements. Two elements *stick out* from this pile: jamming and melody making. You could say that these are the two dimensions of the figure. (The 'other instrument' points in the direction of 'jamming', as already indicated.)

One might ask why improvisation is in the 'technical' group — almost in the opposite direction to melody making. From the detailed responses, we can see that several teachers mention improvisation as a teachable skill, giving specific examples.

## 2. 2. Processing the answers to question 12

102 respondents answered the question. 12 did not respond to the question in substance, 13 gave individual (unique) answers. These responses were excluded from further analysis and the remaining 77 responses were analysed statistically.

	all mentions	by itself	with another	with more
finish	25	15	3	7
improvisation	14	7	5	2
creative exercise	14	9	5	0
addendum	11	4	6	1
creative teacher	11	8	3	0
melody writing	8	3	3	2
adaptation	7	1	3	3
sound set	5	0	1	4
question-answer	5	1	3	1
another part	5	0	1	4
game	4	2	1	1
rhythm formula	3	0	0	3
listeting to music	2	0	2	0

The following elements were found in the responses, distributed as follows:

Table 6: Results of the answers to question 12 of the questionnaire survey

The table shows that 50 teachers mentioned only one item. The association matrix calculated based on co-occurrences is highly incomplete because not all pairings occurred. (The -1s in the association matrix indicate missing pairs.) The other Yule coefficients that can be evaluated allow the following findings.

Association matrix results:

		Yule's Y Coefficient of Colligation					
	sound	rhythm				creative	
	set	formula	improvisation	finish	addendum	teacher	
sound set	1.000	<mark>.778</mark>	.370	.188	.192	-1.000	
rhythm formula	.778	1.000	.584	.111	-1.000	-1.000	
improvisation	.370	.584	1.000	-1.000	-1.000	.095	
finish	.188	.111	-1.000	1.000	.041	-1.000	
addendum	.192	-1.000	-1.000	.041	1.000	-1.000	
creative teacher	-1.000	-1.000	.095	-1.000	-1.000	1.000	
creative exercise	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	.095	127	
question-answer	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	068	.437	-1.000	
game	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	.007	-1.000	-1.000	
listening to music	-1.000	-1.000	.442	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	
melody writing	.284	.439	029	.007	-1.000	-1.000	
another part	.641	-1.000	-1.000	.584	-1.000	-1.000	
adaptation	-1.000	.471	.249	.224	-1.000	-1.000	

Table 7: Proximity Matrix (association matrix) results

	Yule's Y Coefficient of Colligation				
	creative	question-		listening to	melody
	exercise	answer	game	music	writing
sound set	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	.284
rhythm formula	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	.439
improvisation	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	.442	029
finish	-1.000	068	.007	-1.000	.007
addendum	.095	.437	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000
creative teacher	127	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000
creative exercise	1.000	.119	-1.000	-1.000	029
question-answer	.119	1.000	. <mark>474</mark>	-1.000	-1.000
game	-1.000	.474	1.000	-1.000	-1.000
listening to music	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	1.000	.569
melody writing	029	-1.000	-1.000	.569	1.000
another part	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000	.284
adaptation	-1.000	-1.000	.387	-1.000	-1.000

Table 8: Proximity Matrix (association matrix) results

	Yule's Y Coefficient of Colligation			
	another part	adaptation		
sound set	<mark>.641</mark>	-1.000		
rhythm formula	-1.000	.471		
improvisation	-1.000	.249		
finish	.584	.224		
addendum	-1.000	-1.000		
creative teacher	-1.000	-1.000		
creative exercise	-1.000	-1.000		
question-answer	-1.000	-1.000		
game	-1.000	.387		
listening to music	-1.000	-1.000		
melody writing	.284	-1.000		
another part	1.000	.556		
adaptation	.556	1.000		

#### Table 9: Proximity Matrix (association matrix) results

The Yule coefficient of the rhythm pattern and the sound set is 0.778, which shows a close correlation. It can be said that any creative exercise or improvisation needs some fixed point, however restrictive, that will set the student in motion to solve the task. In this, sound or rhythm has the same function.

The rhythm formula given for improvisation is also sufficient without sounds, e.g., just clapping, without an instrument. Justify that the "rhythm must always walk in front." The Yule coefficient of the other part and the sound set is 0.641, which allows the following statement: if, for example, another part is improvised for a melody, the other part must have the same sound set.

The medium Yule coefficient of question-answering suggests that question-answering develops the child's music creation skills and plays an important role in his instrumental work. For example, in an instrumental lesson, the teacher plays a two-beat pattern in advance, to which the pupil responds with a two-beat pattern. In other voices, the original melody can be reworked by multiplying, thinning, or replacing the melody and rhythm.

Results of multidimensional scaling:

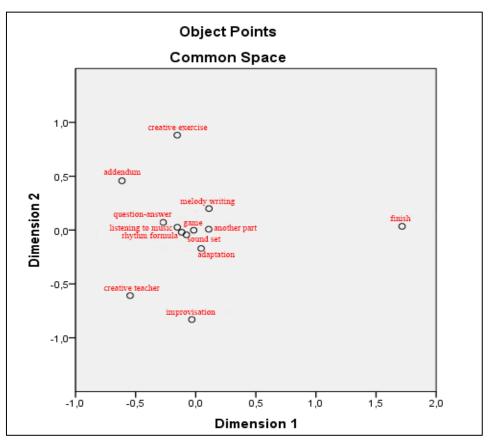


Figure 2: Multidimensional scale representation

Multidimensional scaling has produced interesting results. The technical elements are grouped together. Creative task, completion and improvisation stand out from the group. Melody writing and the completion point in the direction of the creative task. Creative teacher points towards improvisation, which suggests that the teachers consider improvisation as a task, a teachable skill in the classroom. Completion plays an important role, as the completion of an improvisation task once started is also a skill that can be developed. The majority of teachers supported this with concrete examples.

#### 3. Results of the questionnaire survey

In the questionnaire survey, questions related to improvisation and music creation will result in a low average score. This hypothesis was not confirmed, because improvisation and music creation in the practice of music teachers accounted for 44.8%. This is a high result, since the flute curriculum includes the development of improvisation and creativity, the teacher chooses how to incorporate it into the curriculum. The measured data shows that many music teachers are using these exercises, which is welcome. In the questionnaire survey, musical creativity requires a creative teaching personality and a creative methodological toolkit. This hypothesis is confirmed because in the last question we asked for suggestions to improve flute schools. The majority of respondents suggested creative teaching personalities and creative methodological tools. The result of the association matrix shows that the correlation between creative teacher and attention is 0.747, i.e., a strong relationship. Creative teachers use their methods to focus the child's attention on the material to be learned. The two-dimensional maps of the variables form a cluster: creative teacher, attention, experience, peer, personality development.

The association proved that the elements of the above group are related. A creative teacher uses creative methodological tools to provide students with an experience, either individually or in a group. The focus of attention is on the solutions to the music creation tasks, thus developing the personality.

#### 4. Discussion

The questionnaires gave me a comprehensive picture of the teaching and learning work of music teachers. The survey revealed that several music teachers use improvisation exercises and tasks. The students themselves create the music.

In instrumental training, there is a great need to develop creative skills. Improvisation exercises should be part of the music school education, under the guidance of the teacher.

A further aim of the research was to explore the extent to which flute teachers use improvisation in their teaching and what methodological tools they use to develop creativity. The teacher's creativity is a major factor in the student's motivation, the continuous development of which is lifelong learning.

I evaluated quantitative data and results. I presented numerical data in tables and graphs, applied Yule's association coefficients, and multidimensional scaling.

There is a great need to develop creative abilities in instrumental education. Improvisation exercises should be part of music education, under the guidance of the teacher.

In primary flute teaching, changes are needed in the teaching tools and curricula. A further avenue of research could be to encourage flute teachers to develop a new methodological publication that presents creative and improvisational exercises.

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