

The iPad Is a REAL Musical Instrument

Williams, D. A. (2014). Another Perspective The iPad Is a REAL Musical Instrument. *Music Educators Journal*, 101(1), 93-98.

This article was very interesting to me as I was unaware that there were places that are using technology so actively in their music making. After watching the Touch performance, I was very impressed with what they were able to do using just one instrument. I was very intrigued by the comparisons the author made between the iPad and the oboe. Before reading this article, I never would have defined the iPad as an instrument. However, he made some very valid points which I think have changed my perspective. Ultimately it is the person who makes music, and the instrument would be worthless without anyone there to do so. I was very surprised by the responses to the iPad ensemble that the author mentioned. I believe to say it is in the students best interest to expose them to “quality art” is very ignorant and shows the closed minded attitude that some music programs and music educators have. It is very frustrating to me that in music education there is this Eurocentric attitude and hierarchy of what is considered to be “real” music. As the author says, certain instruments and a certain type of music is widely considered to be superior and everything else is either not worthy of being taught, or can be included once in a while just for fun. And I agree with him when he states that this contributes to the lack of interest in music education. I admire the iPad ensemble for challenging this and proving that there is more than one way to make and teach music. I was interested in reading about how the iPad ensemble differentiates itself from the typical music education model, and I believe the author hit on some key points such as the lack of autonomy in a regular classical ensemble. However, I think that something as advanced and unique as an iPad ensemble which would allow for alternative methods of teaching would not be accessible for some if not most music students.

Therefore, if I were to speak to the author I would inquire on how one would be able to, or if it is at all possible to incorporate these techniques into a typical classroom that may not have access to iPads for their students. Ultimately, I really admire what this group is doing and wish for it to become something that all students could experience.