

Abstract

The aim of the proposed research is to introduce and familiarize the piano educators with the basic principles of contemporary music thought and provide didactic tools and new pedagogical repertoire for the teaching and interpretation of contemporary music. Contemporary music is the continuation and evolution of classical Western music tradition, which is the only genre of music that is taught in most educational Music institutions worldwide (Conservatories, Academies, Universities). However, the evolution of classical music into contemporary 'classical' music has not yet been reflected in the field of music education. In Greece especially, the formal curriculum of teaching material in instrumental lessons has not been updated since 1957.

Every teacher's duty however, in any subject, is to be informed of recent discoveries in his field so that his teaching is updated and his teaching material is modernized. The instrumental music teachers are not excluded from this responsibility and it is regrettable when most of the students are depriving the music experience of the last seven decades, which has led to major upheavals and rapid developments in music.

Music educators are hesitant to include this repertoire in to their teaching for two main reasons:

1. Lack of understanding and training regarding the interpretive approach of contemporary repertoire.
2. Lack of contemporary pedagogical repertoire.

The proposed research wishes to contribute in bridging this gap between music education and contemporary music by offering an innovative teaching guide of contemporary repertoire. The teaching guide will be divided in the two following sections:

1. Basic Tools for the Performance of contemporary Repertoire,
Through innovative creative exercises and the study of representative music works the necessary tools are acquired for the perception of the structure and the processing of the musical material of the contemporary repertoire.
2. New pedagogical works written by young and internationally acclaimed composers of Greece and abroad. The level of difficulty of the new pedagogical works will be scaled so that it can be used from the first year of study up to the graduate level.

Keywords

Piano teaching, Contemporary music, New music performance practice, Contemporary piano repertoire