

Motivating children for concert music



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Main hall of Casa da Música, Porto

'Music takes care of me' - Objectives

To enhance young children's motivation and interest for music, in particular, for classical music.

To develop social interactions among children and their families, around musical topics.

To broaden the training of future music teachers through experiences in non-school educational contexts, very different from school music lessons.

To promote fruitful collaborations between cultural and educational institutions.

Training of music teachers



Escola Superior de Educação - Música e Drama

'Music takes care of me' - Programme

Collaboration between Casa da Música and the Music Department of Escola Superior de Educação (School of Education) in Porto.

Families who attend to the evening concerts on Saturdays and Sundays (18.00-20.00) may leave their children in a room in the concert hall.

Children in two age groups (3-6 and 7-10) carry out playful and creative musical activities related to the concert programme. They are guided by future music teachers and their supervisor.

'Music takes care of me'



Enjoy the concert
and let music
take care of
your children



'Music takes care of me' - Activities

Most activities take place in a room, and are based on an active music listening approach

- Singing musical themes of a work
- Clapping the rhythm or the pulse
- Moving and dancing to the music
- Conducting the music
- Watching part of the concert on an internal TV
- Drawing images related to the musical works, musicians or instruments (e.g. descriptive music)
- Getting some information about the music
- Telling about their musical experiences

'Music takes care of me' - Activities

... and music making

- Exploring and trying to play classical instruments
- Playing small percussion instruments
- Singing songs
- Playing musical games
- Improvising in group
- Creating stories around the music
- Dramatizing musical stories
- Creating music for stories

'Music takes care of me' - Activities

Activity in the concert hall

- Preparing to enter into the concert hall
- Attending to a short work (about 6 to 8 minutes)
- Talking about their musical experience
- Discussing their preferences and interests

'Music takes care of me' - Planning

Preparing the sessions with a supervisor

- Listen to and analyse the musical works
- Read the programme to get further information
- Plan the session, in different moments
- Evaluate and correct the plannification
- Prepare the materials and equipment
- Implement the activities during the session
- Evaluate the session (quality of the activities, children's motivation and interest, educator's relationship with children, main difficulties)
- Plan following session

'Music takes care of me' - Evaluation

Most children were aged 3 to 7, coming from a middle class background (typical audience).

Children seemed to be motivated and well engaged (activities need to be short and varied).

Educators have broaden their views and learned adequate strategies to motivate young children in non-school contexts.

Main difficulty: short interactions between educator and children make each session unique, important, and make careful preparation essential.