There has been an enormous increase in research over the past two decades into the psychology of music. SEMPRE (the Society for Education, Music and Psychology Research) is the only international society which embraces an interest in the psychology of music, research and education. SEMPRE was founded in 1972 and has published the journal Psychology of Music since 1973, now in partnership with SAGE (see www.sempre.org.uk).

In an exciting development, SEMPRE signed an agreement with Ashgate in 2007 to promote the latest research to a wider audience on popular topical themes under the heading 'SEMPRE Studies in the Psychology of Music', the first such series of its type internationally. The theme for the series is the psychology of music, broadly defined. Topics will include: (i) musical development at different ages, (ii) exceptional musical development in the context of special educational needs, (iii) musical cognition and context, (iv) culture, mind and music, (v) micro to macro perspectives on the impact of music on the individual (such as from neurological studies through to social psychology), (vi) the development of advanced performance skills and (vii) affective perspectives on musical learning. The series will present the implications of research findings for a wide readership, including user-groups (music teachers, policy makers, parents), as well as the international academic and research communities. The distinguishing features of the series will be this broad focus (drawing on basic and applied research from across the globe) under the umbrella of SEMPRE's distinctive mission, which is to promote and ensure coherent and symbiotic links between education, music and psychology research.

The series editors invite proposals for publication. Please contact Professor Graham Welch g.welch@ioe.ac.uk in the first instance.

Just published

Infant Musicality

New Research for Educators and Parents

Johannella Tafuri, Conservatorio di Musica “G.B. Martini” di Bologna, Italy

‘Johannella Tafuri’s life work is to understand more deeply how infants benefit from formal and informal exposure to music. Her longitudinal studies, some of the most interesting and useful on the topic, provide a thoughtful, scholarly and practical account of early musical development with a special emphasis on infants’ singing ability. Tafuri has produced an immensely important contribution to the literature. Each chapter encouraged me to think, reflect, and above all, celebrate this remarkable stage of infants’ development.’

Gary McPherson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

‘This is a very important book I recommend to everybody – not only to music educators and parents – interested in and fascinated by the musical capacities inherent in every child. This impressive project clearly demonstrates the importance of music, in all its forms, in the homes and lives of very small, even still unborn, children and should encourage all parents, whether they regard themselves as musical or not, to sing to their children and interact with them in music.’

Göran Folkestad, Lund University, Sweden

What can infants hear? Is it useful for them to sing and listen to music? How can their musical development be improved? In this book, Tafuri explores these and other questions through a longitudinal research project devoted to studying musical development from 0 to 6 years in children, with particular attention on the ability to sing in tune. During these 6 years, the subjects would have a regular music education experience with their mothers and often other members of the immediate family. This book reconstructs the development of human musical abilities and puts forward an educational perspective based on the results of the research. The book will be of crucial interest to parents and music educators so that they can have scientific, theoretical and methodological foundations for their educational strategies.

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