

ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on a narrative analysis of the process of becoming a master musician and the identification of the key factors that the subject perceives as important in their journey towards achieving mastery of a musical instrument. The thesis is divided into two parts. The theoretical part of the thesis discusses the concept of mastery and the process of achieving it, the importance of the flow state and its connection to mastery, the theory of Affordance, the differences between master and beginner players in chess, and the connection between psychology and music. The empirical part of the thesis implements a qualitative research design, specifically conducting seven narrative interviews with musicians who have achieved a certain level of mastery. Analysis of these interviews reveals that the key resources in achieving mastery are disposition, motivation, self-awareness, the influence of significant others, managing nervousness, and state of flow. These resources may interact with each other. The discussion presents a comparison of the results obtained with the existing literature and identifies possible limitations of the work.

The contribution of this thesis lies in the detailed mapping and identification of key factors leading to mastery in music. Particular attention is paid not only to the aspects, the social-motivational-affective level, but also to the psychomotor level, which brings a unique perspective on the process of becoming a musician to the point of mastery. An important finding is that musically gifted individuals emphasize subjectively less importance of psychomotor factors on the path to mastery. This importance can be interpreted that the respondents who mention less the psychomotor level, simply forget about it, as they sort out these psychomotor elements and then in the narrative remain rather impressions of relationships, feelings, experiences, i.e. the social-motivational-affective level. The results of this work have the potential to provide valuable information for music education, further research and for those interested in achieving mastery in music.

KEYWORDS

Mastery, skills, learning, musical instrument, thematic analysis