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Music – Meaning – Sustainability

In this paper, we will discuss how music-related meaning experienced in musical practices (Kaiser, 1992; Rolle, 1999) may be related to processes of *Bildung* towards values of sustainability, in our paper limited to problems of climate change and environmental issues. We argue that what needs to be changed is our consumer mentality; ideals of effectiveness, haste, and immediate gratification.

We turn our attention to Immanuel Kant's concept 'disinterested pleasure' (Kant, 1995), representing an alternative to unlimited instrumentalism. According to Hannah Arendt (1968) the idea of *disinterest* is a prerequisite for being able to take care of the world. Arendt argues that a consumer society, where everything is a means to another end, cannot possibly know how to take care of the world and the things that belong exclusively to the world's forms of appearance, because its central attitude towards all objects, the attitude of consumption, involves the destruction of everything it touches. Thus, arguing in favor of the intrinsic, non-instrumental, meaning of musical experience (as we have done in previous publications), may be of interest in a line of thought about *Bildung* processes towards sustainability.

Other thinkers and concepts which will be included in the reflections of this paper are Heidegger (2008) on *the work of art*, Adorno (2002) on *art as critique*, Byung-Chul Han (2018) on *beauty*, and Harmut Rosa (2021) on the concept *resonance*.

Even if this paper will not have 'musical learning' as the focus of attention, we argue that our discussions will be relevant for fundamental, basic reflections on music education in general – related to ideas of environmental sustainability.

References

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