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## Introduction

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The situation of music education in a country always reveals many important pieces of information about local culture, about the way of thinking about the arts, about music. Society's relationship to music has always been a colourful picture of the whole civilization of a region, of a country. We can agree with Platon, the great Greek philosopher, when he says that music is a very important element of a state's culture, because it has personal effects on every individual, so it also gives a great possibility to the state for manipulation of the souls, as we could see in the past centuries...

Of course, we must not only see this dark possibility, but we have to understand the global benefits of music in the development of the personality by the transferable musical abilities. We know from music history that music is a very old present of mankind, operated by mimetic function in ancient time and developed into a high-level language during thousands of years. The history of music education demonstrates that music was always important for the leaders of a population, of a state, of a national culture, it was an important task to pass music culture on to the new generations. As in the history of sciences, music was controlled by the church, the religion, which could use it to give a special experience to the mysterium of the religion, and a special possibility for identification for everyone. Simultaneously, the folk music culture of the poor side of a society was also alive, bounded by several events of the community of a village. The secular music had the meaning that music became finally an independent element of human civilization, and it was and it is understandable for everybody all over the world.

So, if we agree with the statements above, we can understand that music education has always been very important, but the systems and the possibilities (e.g., financial support) of music education were not equal in different countries. In general, education has always had the target to face the changes in society and to modify the methods, the

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contents, and the vocal or instrumental music education. We also know from the music history that music can be the culture of the rich, elite groups of a society, but as the Kodály system shows, the folk music-based vocal system can bring the music near to the wide, poorer side of society.

Europe's music culture seems to be a homogeneous language from a distant continent, but we know that there are differences in mentality, in national traditions, and there are different styles in history with national tastes. If it is so, it is absolutely normal and natural that there are differences between the music educational systems, the methodologies, too. We can read exciting reviews on the next pages, how it works in a region of Europe, which had a very colourful history in the past centuries. This region of Europe has had a history, which contains parallelisms and differences, too. It is one of the reasons why, if we look at the music educational systems, we can see almost the same ways in state music education. At the same time, we can see national philosophies in the different countries. And finally, we know the results of music education today, listening to international music competitions, or concerts, recitals.

We cannot forget that successful music education does not depend on the systems, and the schools only, but the most valuable element is the talented and well-prepared teacher, who is infected by music, who is the engine of every kind of music schools. Hungary had a great anniversary of music teacher training for the elementary music school system in 2016: fifty years before by a new law of education, the teachers could have the possibility to continue their studies in higher educational institutions. The story of this is a concrete example of an evolution in music education.

The issue, which you are holding in your hand, gives you a special impression about the situation in a region, which could produce and give several great and talented musicians to the world and give the miracle of the music for many young generations in the last centuries.