

Does the sound matter in teaching music through distance learning?

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## Abstract

### Background

The Ministry of Education of Finland has funded a three-year project (2001-2003), which supports the development and research of music distance learning. The project is administrated by Sibelius Academy, and it has one partner in the rural area, the International Centre of Chamber Music in Kuhmo. The presenter of this paper is employed by the project and has developed several structures and models for learning and training by applying both synchronous and asynchronous technology.

### Details

The first question to come to one's mind when discussing the music distance learning might be: What about the sound? However, the relevant question would be: Is the sound good enough for this situation? Or, is there something else in this situation that grabs more attention than the high quality of sound? In this presentation the author will suggest different means of teaching music per distance both real-time setups as well as asynchronous ones. The applications vary from web-based music theory studies to master classes. In the presentation there will be several demonstrations to show how we have enhanced the sound quality and also created new pedagogical combinations to overcome the problems mentioned earlier. Also, some findings about those occasions where, for instance, the movement in a video is more vital than the sound, will be presented. Furthermore, the audience will get a good comprehension of what is happening in the field of music distance learning in general.

### Summary

The main goal for this project has been to enable more democratic possibilities for music studies. In addition to this the distance learning project has been very powerful in combining people from different cultures. (One example was a panel that was held in ISME Bergen. Then the participants were gathered with videoconference from several places in Finland and United States.) Music is not a common language. Both teachers and students have benefit this project and gain the knowledge of foreign culture. What is the music language of my friend on the other side of the world?