Music in health promotion and death education: Perspectives from community music therapy

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Emerging music practices and inter-disciplinary dialogues
(e.g. Higgins, 2012; MacDonald, Kreutz & Mitchell, 2012; Malloch & Trevarthen, 2009)

- Music(king) as action and relationship
- Communicative musicality
- Health musicking

Community music therapy:

- World Congress of Music Therapy (Oxford, 2002)
- Research initiatives (e.g. Stige, Ansdell, Elefant & Pavlicevic, 2010)
- The first UK-based PhD on community music therapy:
  - “The performance of community music therapy evaluation” (Wood, 2015)

Community music therapy as a ‘third way’ of working musically with people.

Special issue on Community Music Therapy (May 2014)

Approaches
An interdisciplinary journal of music therapy
www.approaches.gr
www.facebook.com/approaches.journal
Are you afraid of dying?
Health promotion in palliative care...

d a paradox?

- Dying as a social experience (total pain)
- Public attitudes towards death and dying (BBC poll - ICM Research, 2005)
- End of life strategy (Department of Health, 2008)
- Community involvement
Re-visionsing the role of hospices

“Although the hospice movement has been successful in influencing attitudes in medicine and healthcare professions towards death and dying, one of its major failings has been in changing public attitudes. [...] A current and future responsibility, therefore, must be to address this issue and work with communities of people to integrate healthily the concepts of dying and death into their everyday lives. It seems sensible, because of their expertise and experience, that palliative care services should accept this challenge.” (Hartley, 2008, pp. 34-35)

St Christopher’s Hospice

Health promotion: death education & community engagement

- Schools project (Health promotion project)
- Social programme
The St Christopher’s community choir (December 2012)

Click on the link below to watch the video clip:
http://www.sinfinimusic.com/uk/watch/documentaries/the-st-christophers-hospice-choir
Beyond our ‘comfort zones’...
Music is connected to people’s lives (biography and narrative) AND music connects people’s lives (community building)

Following people and music

• taking risks
• expanding practices
• re-imagining our professional roles
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Looking ahead

- Ecological understanding of music, people, health, illness, and wellbeing

- Old wine in a new bottle?

- A professional suicide?  
  (re-professionalisation vs. de-professionalisation)

- Inter-disciplinary dialogue and collaboration
  - training
  - practice
  - research


