

Editorial

String pedagogy is a complex discipline where practical knowledge and experience tend to be highly visible while systematic gathering of knowledge and critical exposition of research remain exceptions. For anyone working within Universities or Conservatories this circumstance presents a challenge. The more immediate success of the experienced practitioner competes with the often unspectacular and laborious achievements of the theoretical researchers. The former may indeed consider theorizing largely a waste of time, concentrating instead on the immediate needs of teaching and learning and refusing any challenges to successful methodology or practice.

Practical success may justify first person knowledge and experience to a point. To be sure, teaching and practice cannot proceed by theoretical insight alone. Remaining within practical confines, however, leaves the question unexplored whether more benefit for all could be achieved by broadening a body of knowledge through theoretical engagement. Other disciplines have advanced further here: Medicine knows that medical research will benefit the general practitioner. Theoretical or foundational research enhances the relevance and skills of the practitioner. At no time though, is one discarded for the other. Like the human capacity for action and reflection, they must be kept in balance.

All practice will benefit from a critical, theoretical and systematic reflection of its experience and success. While diagnostic ability and an intuition for effective treatment or therapy will always be the domain of the practitioner her practice can be transformed through a pure pursuit of knowledge.

We have decided to offer *String Praxis* to the community of musicians, educators and scholars, particularly those working in Higher Education. This journal offers the opportunity for the publication of academically qualified knowledge, for the critical discussion of theory and for the comprehensive reflection on performance and pedagogical practices. Contributions are peer-reviewed in accordance with the standards of scholarly journals in other disciplines. We hope that over time *String Praxis* will enhance a culture of knowledge and critical dialogue to inform the work of practitioners and scholars alike.

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