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MASTER'S THESES

Perceptions of Guitar Use and Training in Music Therapy: A Survey of Clinicians

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Date of Award

6-2015

Degree Name

Master of Music

Department

Music

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Access Setting

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine music therapists' perceptions of guitar training in clinical practice. Three major research questions were: (1) what is the current training, and clinicians' confidence using the guitar in clinical practice? (2) a sample of 1000 board-certified music therapists were invited to complete a questionnaire with 27 questions in the areas of guitar use, guitar training, and the importance of 28 specific skills. One hundred fifty music therapists responded.

Major findings include: (1) clinicians appear to use the guitar more than piano and percussion; (2) clinicians tended to feel better prepared when they had more than one instrument; (3) many expressed a desire for more guitar training, specific to improvisation; (4) respondents who were trained in music therapy felt their training was more clinically relevant than those who were not; (5) music therapy faculty felt their training was more clinically relevant than those who were not; (6) music therapy faculty are generally confident in their training; (7) factors that predict high confidence levels need to be further explored; (8) most of music therapists enter their academic programs with little to no guitar training; (9) this appears to be especially true for females. Discussion includes implications of these results to previous research, implications for training and recommendations for further research.

Recommended Citation

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