



Χαιρετιστήριες Επιστολές

Welcome Letters

Σημείωση του Επιμελητή Σύνταξης:

Δίνοντας ένα προσωπικό χαιρετισμό στο *Approaches* και γιορτάζοντας το ξεκίνημά του, αλλά επισημαίνοντας ακόμη τη σημασία ανάπτυξης διεθνών συνεργασιών, δημιουργήσαμε την ενότητα 'Χαιρετιστήριες Επιστολές' η οποία θα συνεχιστεί στο δεύτερο τεύχος του περιοδικού.

Προσκαλέσαμε διάφορους συναδέλφους από το εξωτερικό να γράψουν μία χαιρετιστήρια επιστολή όπου θα μπορούσαν να μοιραστούν τις σκέψεις και προοπτικές τους σχετικά με τη μελλοντική ανάπτυξη της Μουσικοθεραπείας και της Ειδικής Μουσικής Παιδαγωγικής στην Ελλάδα, καθώς και τον εν δυνάμει ρόλο του *Approaches* σε αυτήν την ανάπτυξη.

Στο πρώτο τεύχος του *Approaches* είναι τιμή μας να περιλαμβάνουμε επιστολές από τους: Leslie Bunt (Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο), Harald Goll (Γερμανία), Nigel Hartley (Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο), Jackie Robarts (Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο), Brynjulf Stige (Νορβηγία), Alan Turry (ΗΠΑ) and Tony Wigram (Δανία).

Κάθε ένας από αυτούς τους συναδέλφους έχει έρθει σε επαφή, με διάφορους τρόπους, με τις κοινότητες της Μουσικοθεραπείας και /ή της Ειδικής Μουσικής Παιδαγωγικής στην Ελλάδα και έχει συμβάλει στην ανάπτυξη αυτών. Έτσι, για ακόμη μία φορά, τους ευχαριστούμε για την υποστήριξή τους και την έμπνευση που συνεχίζουν να μας προσφέρουν!

Note of the Editor-in-Chief:

Giving a personal greeting to *Approaches* and celebrating its beginning, but also stressing the importance of developing international partnerships, we created a 'Welcome Letters' section which will continue on the second issue of the journal.

We invited various colleagues from abroad to write a welcome letter where they could share their thoughts and perspectives concerning the future development of Music Therapy and Special Music Education in Greece, as well as the potential role of *Approaches* in this development.

In the first issue of *Approaches* we are honoured to include letters from: Leslie Bunt (UK), Harald Goll (Germany), Nigel Hartley (UK), Jackie Robarts (UK), Brynjulf Stige (Norway), Alan Turry (USA) and Tony Wigram (Denmark).

Each of these colleagues has been, in various ways, in contact with the Music Therapy and/or Special Music Education communities in Greece and has contributed to their development. So, once again, we thank them for their support and the inspiration that they continue to offer us!

Leslie Bunt

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Dear colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I send all good wishes at the start of this new and exciting publishing venture. The launch of a journal is a significant step in the development of the discipline and profession of music therapy and a specialist music education service. It provides opportunities for the dissemination of descriptive case studies, philosophical and historical reviews, music-centred discussions as well as a platform for contributions to be made to the ever-increasing international research literature.

My music therapy teacher Juliette Alvin talked of the Ancient Greeks as the forerunners of music therapy noting their early emphasis on careful observation and of music being applied systematically as both a means of prevention and treatment. She talked about this ancient and deep-rooted emphasis on not only the emotional effects of music but also of its physiological influences.

Our therapy and music rooms continue to be spaces where your ancient myths and legends are enacted and I am inspired by such writers as James Hillman in wishing that psychology could return more to the ancient meaning of the study of the psyche as soul-searching.

I much appreciated visiting several centres in Greece a few years ago, talking about your work and hearing some of your music. I witnessed at first hand how some of the ancient Apollonian, Dionysiac and Orphic resonances are still apparent today as we bring the art and science of music to serve the children and adults in our work. I recall a memorable climb in the region of Mount Pelion and subsequent discussions about the myth of Chiron, the wounded healer, still helping us today.

I do look forward very much to reading the articles in this first of what I hope will become a rewarding and exciting project.

Leslie Bunt

Prof. Dr. Harald H. Goll

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I am very happy to contribute with a welcome to this first issue of the new journal *Approaches: Music Therapy & Special Music Education*. It is important for the international development of music education and music therapy to launch such a journal addressing the work with special populations. Fifteen years ago I published the book "Special Educational Music Therapy" as a concept for using music therapy with persons who have severe/profound intellectual disabilities. Since that time social sciences rapidly progressed, they became more internationally oriented and developed transdisciplinary programs. Today, music education and music therapy use many different approaches and so does special education. I hope you will succeed differentiating the three disciplines while combining their research knowledge in order to serve persons with disabilities at its best.

Harald H. Goll

Nigel Hartley

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It is with a lot of pleasure that I write this letter of welcome to the *Approaches: Music Therapy & Special Music Education* journal. It is a reminder to those of us who have been involved in the development of music therapy over a number of years, that in many ways, our profession is still very much in its infancy and constantly developing to find its place within a fast changing world of education, health and social care.

It is only right that music, which is a strong and influential at the core of Greek culture, plays its part in the healing and education of the country's people, and that a forum is created where practitioners can share, develop and learn about the potential that music holds to change, mould, define and strengthen relationships when people are vulnerable.

I have visited Greece a number of times to share music therapy work from within the area of Hospice and specialist Palliative Care, and have always been impressed by an openness amongst medical professionals to understand the potential that the arts bring to people's lives within health care organisations.

I wish the development of music therapy in Greece, and the development of this journal, well for the future. As music therapy develops in Greece, I sincerely hope that the breadth of possibility that is available to us all in music does not get lost in the bureaucracy of necessary professional regulation and the development of competences for music therapists.

Good Luck and Congratulations!

Nigel Hartley

Jackie Robarts

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Congratulations and welcome to *Approaches* and to its innovative and energetic editorial team. It is timely that such a web-journal is established in Greece, home of music as therapy since antiquity – and, equally, recognized for its disciplines of rhetoric and philosophical debate. These traditions remain alive and well in Greece – and abroad - whenever and wherever one is lucky enough to fall into conversation with a Greek! I hope that *Approaches* will encourage lively, in-depth discussion between the closely related fields of special music education and music therapy, exploring overlaps, differences, and ways of working together.

Modern music therapy is flourishing in Greece. However, it needs now to be fully recognized by the Greek government as a profession in its own right. During my recent visit this April to Thessaloniki as keynote speaker for the 1st Music Therapy Seminar of ELEPAP, Hellenic Society for Disabled Children, I was excited to learn more about the development of music therapy in Greece, and see some of the remarkable work of professional music therapists employed in health and special education services, as well as working in private practice. This one-day seminar included presentations given jointly by music therapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and educationists, with insightful discussion of case material, also appraised from an interdisciplinary perspective. However, the seminar also raised the issue of music therapists in Greece not having full professional status, resulting in ad hoc bases for their work, often with inadequate or no pay.

I hope that *Approaches* will increase awareness, nationally and internationally, of music therapy in Greece and provide a forum for interdisciplinary discussion reaching an international readership. Once again, *Approaches*, welcome!

Jackie Robarts

Brynjulf Stige

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I want to congratulate the Greek pioneers that have established *Approaches: Music Therapy & Special Music Education*. To my knowledge this new journal is unique in several respects: It is the first peer-reviewed journal in Greece dedicated to the fields of Music Therapy and Special Music Education, it will be one of

very few forums internationally to link the two fields of Music Therapy and Special Music Education, and it will be a bilingual journal with articles both in Greek and English. I think all three assets are extremely valuable: When working with music in health and special education we need to promote research and a continuous development of knowledge, which suggests that our journals should be peer-reviewed. Interdisciplinary work is extremely important if we take the holistic needs of the people we work with into consideration. And finally, bilingual (or multilingual) work is the future of fields such as Music Therapy and Special Music Education. We need to communicate in English in order to establish the international dialogue required for contemporary scholarly development, but all of us who don't have English as our first language also need to use our national and local languages in order to ground our work and develop it in relation to the contexts where people live their lives and dream their dreams for a better future.

Brynjulf Stige

Dr. Alan Turry

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It is a great pleasure to bear witness to a music therapy birth! Peer reviewed journals are an important component in the development of a profession and *Approaches* will help to strengthen the Greek, but also the entire international music therapy community. I encourage the editors to celebrate the development and diversity of our inspiring field, maintaining a spirit of inclusiveness while continuing to cultivate ideas that explicate the uniqueness and importance of music therapy.

Alan Turry

Prof. Tony Wigram

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I would like to commend and encourage the development of peer reviewed journal in Greece, and the initiative you are making to develop this type of academic documentation. Many people write books about music therapy (myself included!), but a book does not hold as much credibility as an article in a peer reviewed journal. I am certain that this is the most important development an association or group of academics can make, because this type of publication reflects the standards and quality of work of a country.

Research is always a priority, but many music therapy journals also reflect the developments in clinical work. I would very much encourage you to be sure and include clinical papers in the journal as well as research articles. Often clinicians don't feel very represented in journals, so this is a good ambition to start with that they can tell the story of music therapy from the working person's position.

I wish you all a great deal of inspiration and creative thought with this project

Tony Wigram