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Learning about yourself in the band rehearsal

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Learning about yourself in the band rehearsal

Pedagogical Research
Overview
Pedagogical research in popular music

Focus
How might peer assessment and learning activities help to improve our personal attributes as they are displayed in band rehearsing?
How can we develop an improved awareness of our personal attributes and those of others in rehearsing?

Methodology
Action research conducted during 2001-2007
It involved 170 undergraduate popular music students and 80 bands
Informed by social constructivist thought
Extensive peer marking data
Sixteen in-depth individual interviews

Personal attributes
What might be the nature of our personal attributes as they are displayed in rehearsing?
Attributes that the band feel are important to them?
Attributes that are important to each band member?
Our personal ‘strengths’ in the rehearsal?
Our personal ‘weaknesses’ in the rehearsal?

Peer assessment of ‘personal weaknesses’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>‘Personal weaknesses’ that your band think you can improve</th>
<th>HA</th>
<th>OM</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>TP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open to ideas</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willingness to help others Not helping?</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enthusiasm Lacking enthusiasm?</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>4/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team member Taking too much control?</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>3/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confident Lacking confidence?</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learnt lyrics quickly Leaving it last minute?</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening to others Disregarding others?</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing to ideas Too quiet?</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal knowledge...

“Open to ideas, flexibility in order to learn” – OM
“Enthusiasm, communication” – SC
“Willingness to help others, not helping” – TP
“Confident, […]” – HA
“Lack of self-confidence” – SA

Feedback...

“an exceptional way of getting feedback” – EJ
“it enables you to understand how to improve” – EJ
“It teaches you to try harder, do better” – OD, EJ, LL
“hard to work with people who cannot accept criticism” – EJ
“my [self-selected] weaknesses – they’re not what the other people would perceive as my weaknesses” – SA

Confidence......

“I’ve always been a bit of a buck seat and kind of just sort of do things. I’ve tried to do. If you know what I mean. So, because they put me in the position of deciding this, that and other, I’ve learnt to be more assertive” – DS
“It made me look a lot more at myself, and looking at their confidence, like, with mine” – YL
“You definitely notice people who are confident … put their ideas forward more than people who tend to maybe not have had as much experience of playing with people” – TP

Honesty...

“Have there been difficulties in letting the truth face-to-face, no written feedback?” – SC, DS
“written feedback avoids confrontations” – HA, SA
“It’s much more of a friends” – OD
“try to be honest with my friends” – HA, MR
“some give friends better marks…” – OD
“personal feelings get in the way sometimes, and people will purposely mark low out of spite” – EJ