Abstract:

The Diploma Thesis addresses the methods of teaching playing the violin and related teaching materials. The first part of the Thesis is devoted to traditional Czech schools, which are at the moment the most common resource material used at the Czech ZUS basic fine arts schools. I briefly introduce methodical materials intended for the education of beginners by Josef Micka and Magdalena Micková, Otakar Ševčík, Jan Čermák and Jaroslav Beran, Zdeněk Gola and Eva Bublová. The second part, being the centrepiece of the Thesis, is focused on two pedagogical methods which are non-Czech by origin – namely the Suzuki method and the Colourstrings method. Shinichi Suzuki created his method in post-war Japan and his accent in teaching playing an instrument is in the development of the potential of a person as well as the society, not really achieving true mastery in violin playing. The Thesis includes a description of its cornerstones and foundations. The last method addressed in the Thesis is the Colourstrings method, emerging partly from the Suzuki method. Its author, Géza Szilvay, created it for his daughter, now a professional violinist. Szilvay is currently heavily involved in a tour of lectures on musical pedagogy and long-distance teaching projects. He is based at The East Helsinki Music Institute and the Sibelius Academy in Finland. The method is described in detail using its basic teaching material, namely the “Colourstrings Violin ABC Book A”. The final part of the Thesis includes an interview with Veronika Machander, who has studied the method with its creator, Géza Szilvay, and is currently organising, together with her husband, Jan Machander, courses on the Colourstring method for string teachers.