



## **Musical thinking: a model and taxonomy**

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*Category: Scientific investigation*

**Abstract:** Teaching music is a deceptively complicated enterprise. On the surface, showing someone how to play or sing well is relatively simple. Observing, imitating, and practicing the skills are direct ways to replicate the teacher's performance. Below the surface, however, understanding, analyzing, and reflecting on musical experiences requires critical and creative thinking. For this project, the researcher developed a multi-dimensional pedagogical model and taxonomy of musical thinking to explain some of these issues for music teachers and teacher-educators. This approach embraces musical thinking as an amalgamation of three psychological domains plus two pedagogical approaches. The result is a way both learners and teachers can understand music by knowing, doing, and feeling music through engaging and interdisciplinary instruction. This project takes music education in a new direction, reframing it in terms that reflect the multi-dimensional and inherently meaningful nature of musical experiences.

**Keywords:** Pedagogy, Music education, Music psychology

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