

Guest article: Music as a learning aid - tried and tested for a thousand years!



Learning with music is not an art and not even a difficult craft. Where people sing, they say, settle down, bad people have no songs. But music can do much more than just invite you to sit down in a group. It is an incredible motivator. And it worms its way into our brain and into our memory. Our brain stores what we sing much better than what we just say. This works particularly well when verses are rhymed. Rhymes also anchor messages in our brain. Listen to my video for a vocal introduction to the educational power of music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsLCe2qOTJM>

We can remember what someone sets to music much better, because music not only appeals to the head, but also to the gut, i.e. the emotions. This applies to everything from children's songs to Beethoven and the Beatles. Today, it applies to many things: learning mathematical formulas, legal paragraphs and even abstract facts such as innovation or resilience. And it works for a lifetime. Here is an example of my learning song on the subject of resilience, with which I surprised the audience at the BMW training course <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5HWiXMhZHs>

How do I know that? From my own experiences as a singing lecturer and a book that I wrote together with two colleagues. It should actually be called: Ohrwurm Musik. But it's called something more factual: "Coaching, teaching and learning with music".

It's unbelievable what came to light when writing books. Music as a learning aid already existed in the early Middle Ages, when monks sang Gregorian choruses. Aboriginal Australians used sung maps, or songlines, to find their way around. In the book, we delve even deeper into history and describe, among other things, how indigenous and primitive peoples have used music and song as forms of learning.

So learning with music is not just for children, who learned the ABCs by singing and remembered them better, but also for adults of all ages, although some people see it differently. There is hardly a topic that cannot be put into lyrics for a learning song; in this respect, the learning song method can be considered generic. Have a listen to my learning song about mobility <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIEJdc4Unro>

Today, Gregorian chants can even be heard in hit parades.

A law professor teaches his students paragraphs of law by singing them. We are all familiar with other songs when soccer fans cheer on their players and celebrate successes together. The examples can go on and on. Many are described in our

book, and learning songs are also freely available as examples for educational use on our website www.learnwithmusic.net under the menu item "Song Platform". Here is my learning song for the Pythagorean theorem <https://youtu.be/XN8zbl0nCuY>.

The idea of the learning song platform is to encourage as many teachers as possible to make their learning songs available to others on our platform, so that there is non-profit help for use and suggestions for creating learning songs yourself. So let's get to work on your own learning song. Our book also provides instructions on how to use and write learning songs in lessons or seminars.

The power of music is manifold. Music can even heal the sick. Take a look at our book "Coaching, teaching and learning with music". Exciting reading that covers everything from the history of music and the processes it has on our bodies to a wealth of practical examples and instructions on how to write educational songs. Available in every bookstore or from the publisher Barbara Budrich as well as on Amazon.

We have produced a six-part podcast series to make this exciting topic accessible to many in short episodes. Here is an example of the first episode "Can learning songs impart knowledge?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjx35egRhvk>

All episodes can be listened to on our website www.learnwithmusic.net under the Podcast menu item.

We hope you enjoy reading the book and listening to our podcast series
Hans-Jürgen Boßmeyer!