

‘Effectiveness of half-hour
singing lessons with young
people in formal music
education: students’
perceptions and experiences’

11/02/2025

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Project background



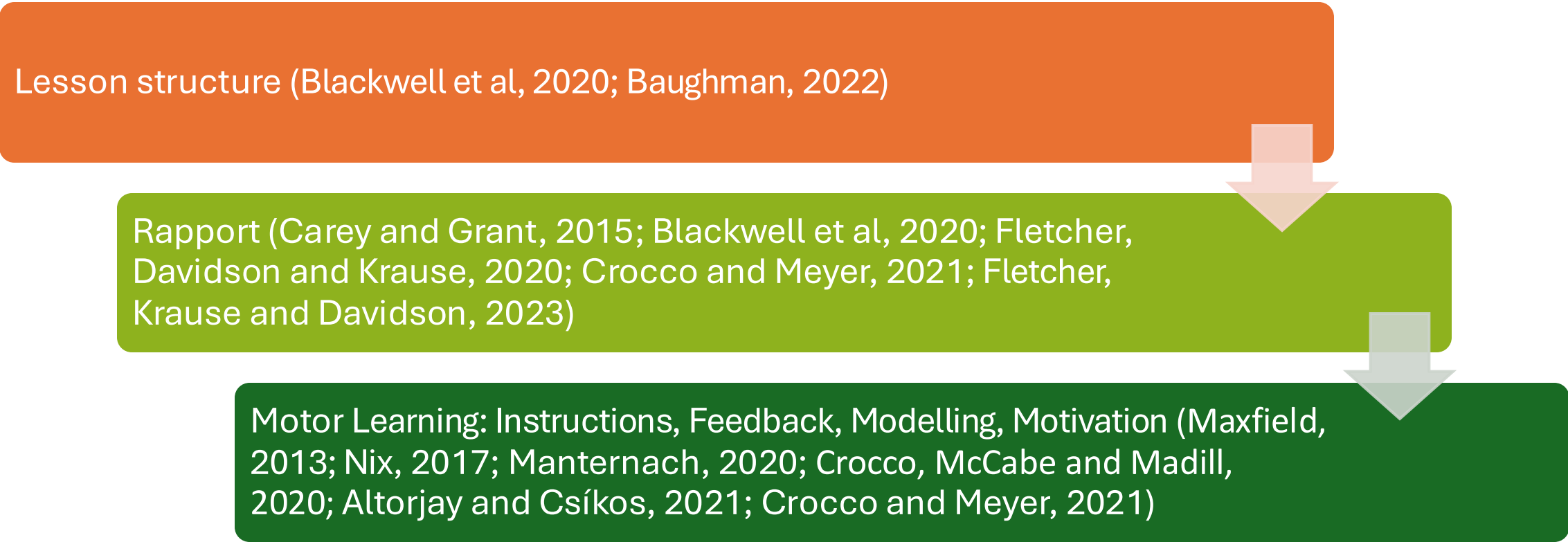
MY OWN JOB AS A PERIPATETIC
TEACHER



CURIOSITY TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO
MAKE MY LESSONS MORE EFFECTIVE

Literature review

Lesson structure (Blackwell et al, 2020; Baughman, 2022)



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graph TD; A[Lesson structure (Blackwell et al, 2020; Baughman, 2022)] --> B[Rapport (Carey and Grant, 2015; Blackwell et al, 2020; Fletcher, Davidson and Krause, 2020; Crocco and Meyer, 2021; Fletcher, Krause and Davidson, 2023)]; B --> C[Motor Learning: Instructions, Feedback, Modelling, Motivation (Maxfield, 2013; Nix, 2017; Manternach, 2020; Crocco, McCabe and Madill, 2020; Altorjay and Csíkos, 2021; Crocco and Meyer, 2021)];
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Rapport (Carey and Grant, 2015; Blackwell et al, 2020; Fletcher, Davidson and Krause, 2020; Crocco and Meyer, 2021; Fletcher, Krause and Davidson, 2023)

Motor Learning: Instructions, Feedback, Modelling, Motivation (Maxfield, 2013; Nix, 2017; Manternach, 2020; Crocco, McCabe and Madill, 2020; Altorjay and Csíkos, 2021; Crocco and Meyer, 2021)

Methodology and methods

Pragmatism

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graph TD; A[Pragmatism] --> B[Parallel mixed-methods case study]; B --> C[Data collection methods: 6 semi-structured interviews and survey on Google Forms (11 respondents)]; C --> D[Convenience Sampling]; D --> E[Data Analysis: Thematic Analysis and Descriptive Statistics];
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Parallel mixed-methods case study

Data collection methods: 6 semi-structured interviews and survey on Google Forms (11 respondents)

Convenience Sampling

Data Analysis: Thematic Analysis and Descriptive Statistics

Insider researcher issues and ethical considerations

- Insider researcher:
 - Easier communication
 - Insight into topic
 - Risk of bias
 - Participants feeling intimidated
- Ethical Considerations:
 - Consent forms
 - Ensuring students did not miss much lesson time for interviews

Findings

Time Management

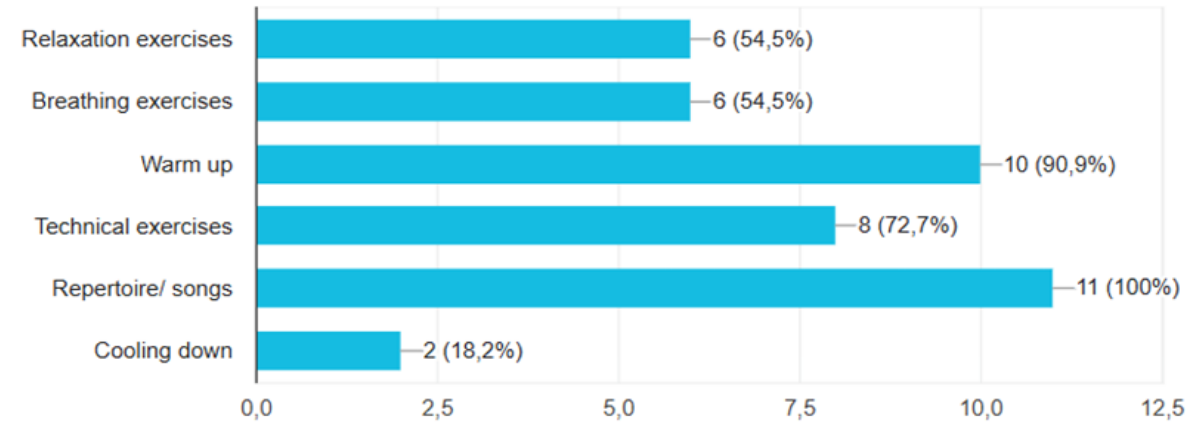
Rapport

Learning

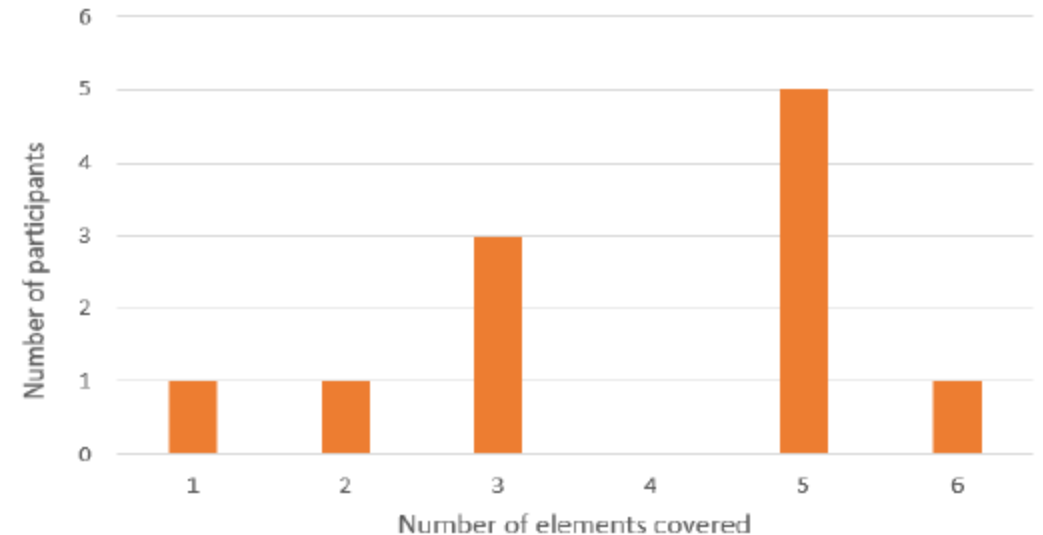
Time Management

- Repertoire, warm-up and technique are most common (Gaunt, 2010; Goldenberg, 2018), but timings unclear
- No clear rule for why certain lessons covered more elements than others

Elements covered in lessons



Number of total elements covered in lessons



Rapport

- Helps students feel more at ease for singing
- Motivates students to listen to the teacher and attend lessons

Rapport: Off-topic interactions



Deemed advantageous in interviews and literature (Blackwell et al, 2020; Kim, 2023; Fletcher, Davidson and Krause, 2024)

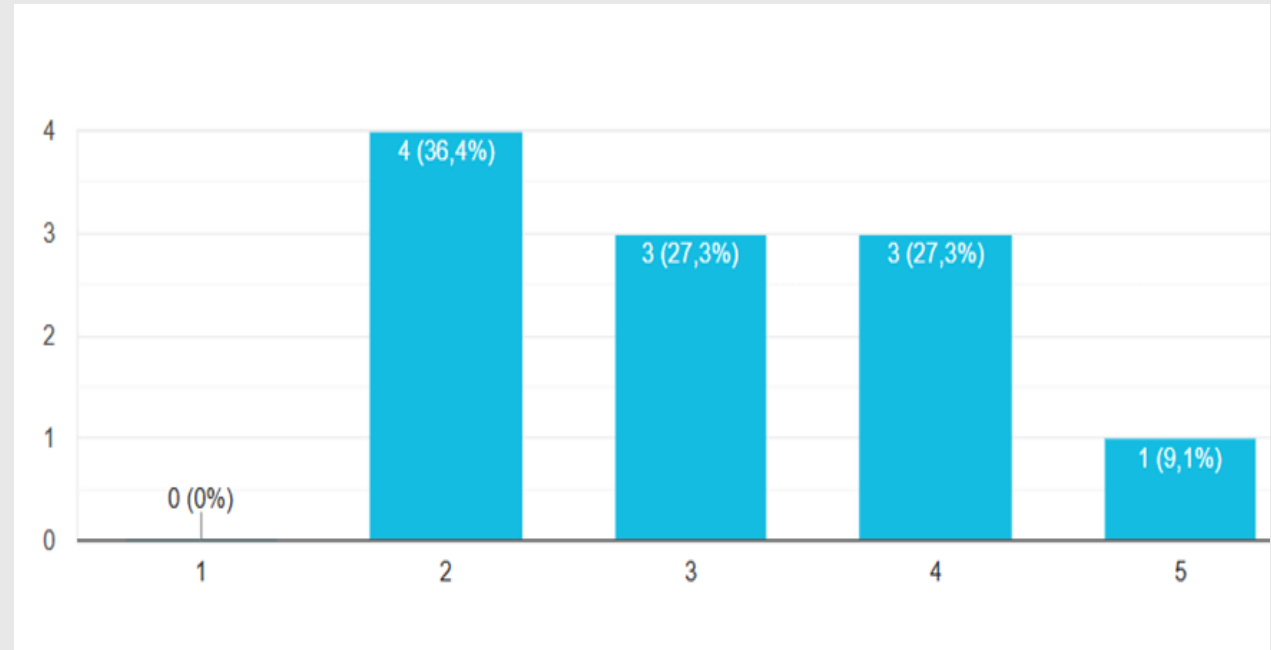


Help create a friendly environment



Divergence with survey data: potential personal preferences

Importance of off-topic conversations: (1- Low importance; 5- High importance)



Rapport (cont.)



POSITIVE FEEDBACK



EMPATHY

Learning

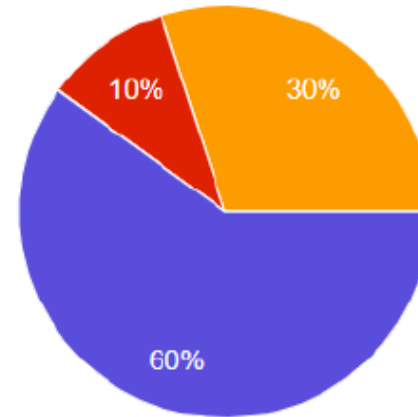
Short and direct instructions

Metaphors and simple analogies

Mixing positive feedback with criticism

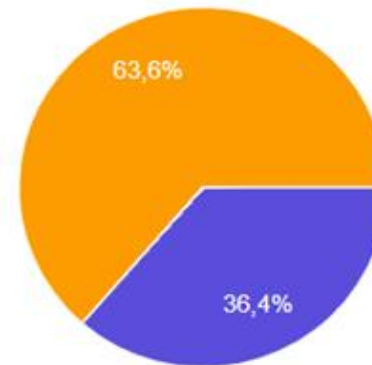
Self-assessment deemed effective for most people

Preferred type of instructions:



- Short and straight to the point
- Long and detailed, otherwise I might struggle to understand properly
- A mix of both

Preferred type of feedback



- Criticism/constructive feedback
- Positive feedback
- A mix of both

Learning: Modelling

Not well-regarded by
motor learning science
(Crocco, McCabe and
Madill, 2020; Crocco
and Meyer, 2021)

Well-regarded by
participants:

- ✓ Helps avoid lengthy explanations
- ✓ Saves time

Conclusions and recommendations

No clear rule for
lesson structure and
time management



Teacher-student
relationships need to
be nurtured, even
when time is limited



Empathy and
communication are
essential



Short instructions
combined with
modelling and
balanced feedback

Reflection

- Limited sample
- Increased understanding of lesson effectiveness
- Sequential mixed methods would have been preferred
- Surveys were not comprehensive enough
- Interviewing became better and easier after each attempt

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