



Open Piano for Refugees - Music Institute DoReMi

Open Piano for Refugees - A holistic approach to cultural integration

Open Piano for Refugees creates a platform for the integration of refugees and socially disadvantaged people (with and without a migration background) via music. We are working against the current cool social climate and are explicitly linking the divide to one step closer to a world where all people value and value each other. The overall concept of Open Piano for Refugees promotes intercultural dialogue and understanding for one another through initiatives and events. With music we unite cultures and fight for social cohesion.

Intercultural dialogue

The novel approach of the music institute DoReMi implies that classes should take place at least for 1-2 semesters in pair lessons with a foreign person and a resident. Depending on the subject, the music teacher is originally of foreign origin. Subjects such as oriental percussion, saz, oud and oriental singing are intended to convey a piece of other culture to the students. Thus, a constructive approach to



cultural and linguistic diversity is promoted, as interest in other, unknown cultural instruments is awakened and a platform of informal intercultural encounters in the leisure context is created. Both the interaction between teachers of different backgrounds and between students is promoted in a playful way, also in the context of joint lectures / events (especially events of the association "Open Piano for Refugees"). Musical instruments thereby become integration instruments.

Language and education



The music lessons are held in German and thus offer the possibility to get in contact with Austrians weekly and to put the language into practice, in addition to the official language courses. From experience we know that this possibility exists for many refugees only limited. The musical education is thus accompanied by the promotion of the German language, since the language can be acquired and

practiced playfully. In addition, of course, with music education, motor skills, cognitive, emotional, social and aesthetic abilities are taught in addition to school lessons, which provide every child, adolescent or adult an increase in their quality of life. Especially in the music country Austria, musical knowledge has a high priority in society and therefore has a high integrative potential. For both asylum seekers / migrants and (low-income) Austrians, DoReMi offers a unique, affordable opportunity to benefit from this potential.

Work and Job

As part of the DoReMi music institute, asylum seekers / migrants with special musical and educational skills should also be actively involved and receive a fair remuneration. In their work as music teachers (or possibly in the organization) they get the opportunity to use their special skills to create a great social value. Over time, we want to increasingly use our students and teachers as supervisors on our open pianos and provide them with performance opportunities, some of which are paid.

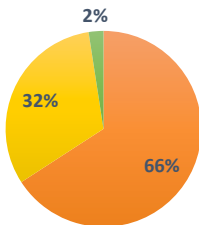
Leisure

Through regular music lessons, we contribute significantly to the meaningful leisure activities of young and old. The pair lessons in the music institute leads to the formation of relations between foreign and domestic persons, promotes mutually understanding for each other, forming friendships and above all the mutual "learning from each other".

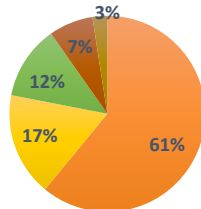


Pupils Survey - Social Impact of DoReMi

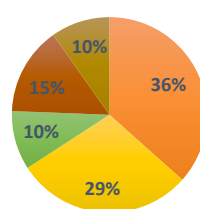
Ich habe auf meinem Instrument viel gelernt.



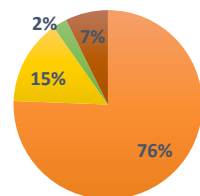
Ich habe mit meinem/r UnterrichtspartnerIn bzw. LehrerIn Freundschaft geschlossen.



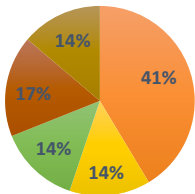
Über DoReMi komme ich in Kontakt mit anderen Kulturen und lerne diese eher wertzuschätzen.



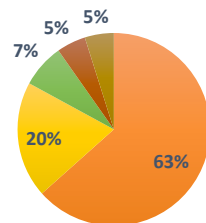
Der wöchentliche Unterrichtstermin hat mir geholfen meine Freizeit sinnvoller zu nutzen und hat mich motiviert zu üben.



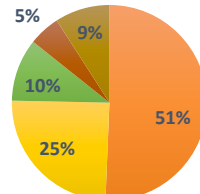
Mein Deutsch ist durch DoReMi besser geworden.



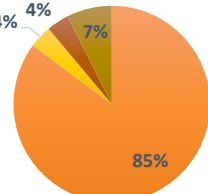
Durch das Erlernen eines Instruments in DoReMi bin ich selbstbewusster geworden.



Durch DoReMi fühle ich mich besser in die österreichische Gesellschaft integriert.



Ohne DoReMi hätte ich vermutlich nicht (wieder) begonnen Musikunterricht zu nehmen.



■ Trifft zu ■ Trifft eher zu ■ Weiß nicht ■ Trifft weniger zu ■ Trifft nicht zu

During our registration interviews, the social impact of 45 students (with and without a migration background), who are already taking part in the second semester at DoReMi, was assessed by means of a small written survey. The result speaks for itself: the majority of the students agreed to all eight statements. Outstanding is especially the increased self-confidence and the feeling about DoReMi to be better integrated into the Austrian society. In addition, many have even improved their German language skills through weekly music lessons. It is also astonishing that, no matter whether of foreign or Austrian origin, DoReMi's need was confirmed, as over 85% stated that they would probably not have (again) started taking music lessons without DoReMi. The comparatively low, if still high, level of approval for "coming into contact with other cultures and learning to appreciate them" results from the fact that we did not have enough Austrian applications in the first semester and we often had refugees of the same origin in a couple. This second semester, however, changed significantly, because of the great rush we were able to form many more couples from different cultures.