

**The Concept of the Art of Music in Ancient Greece, its Influence
and its Educational Character**

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Abstract

The purpose of this text is to clarify the concept of music, primarily as part of a body along with dancing and poetry and secondly as an autonomous art. Also, it reveals its influence in the life of the Ancient Greeks as well as the interest shown by the philosophers of the era towards it. Finally, emphasis is given to the educational character of the art of music. According to written attestations, it is ascertained that the Greeks already from prehistoric times knew about the art of music, as well as that it played a very significant role in their lives. In Ancient Greece, the art of music was irrevocably connected to dancing and poetry and they were considered as a single body, a three-dimensional art. During the 5th century BC, music was separated from the other arts. Plato and the Pythagorean Philosophers considered music as a necessary element of the pedagogical education of a citizen and were engaged in its educational and moral character. Therefore, according to ancient philosophers, the main element of music is “ethos” (moral principles), as they believed that through it they can affect the moral principles of people. Aristotle believed in the educational importance of music and considered that music must be taught for four reasons: for entertainment, for relaxation, for the moral formation of character and liberation of one’s vices and finally for mental and aesthetic enjoyment. Music was a key element in the education of children and for this reason it was a main goal of society and parents to educate their children. In every city-state a different educational system was followed although there were enough common elements. The main instruments for the musical education of young people were the lyre and the pipe. In the course of years bigger or smaller city-states evolved into musical centres, attracting some of the best musicians of their time.

Keywords: art of music, pedagogical education, educational character.