Abstract

The purpose of this article is to present research conducted in Poland enabling the evaluation of the structure and level of perceptual musical abilities of third-grade students finishing their early-school education. The evaluation was based on A. Weiner's Test of Perceptual Musical Abilities which examines important areas of music perception, including the complex structure of the abilities. The research presented herein is unique and the analysis of differences in gender-related results provides essential information on the strong and weak aspects of the skills. The research does not confirm the numerous reports indicating the superiority of girls in music tests.

Keywords: elementary education, perceptual musical abilities of students, gender

Introduction

Perceptual musical abilities are acquired in the area of sound phenomena, in which learning is related to the formation of concepts based on perceptual experience and thinking in terms of sounds and meanings contained within the structure of music. E.E. Gordon defines this area as audiation (Miklaszewski 1990, pp. 192-194; cf. also Gordon 2001). Perceptual musical skills are essential in music education and can be learned by school children, at least at a good level (Weiner 2010, p. 36).