Annotated Bibliography


The author discusses the major contemporary issues in music therapy from a scholarly or theoretical perspective and not just as they apply to clinical settings. The author relates these issues to ethnomusicology and sociology. Part one discusses what music therapy is, and gives some historical background. Later chapters define and discuss current theories and conclude with a chapter on how the profession of music therapy theory is developing and where it is going. The book supplies three tables and copious references. The preface states that this is the only book approaching music therapy from a perspective that isn’t strictly clinical. The author has written a book for graduate level students of music therapy and for scholars in related fields with an interest in how music therapy theory relates to other disciplines.


The authors provide a description of studies conducted separately by each based on their work as music therapists with populations living in prison and those released from prison. The article describes the use of music as a tool to help prisoners have a sense of autonomy in an institution that by design, dehumanizes and strips people of their sense of self-determination. The synthesis of the two studies into one narrative is accompanied by one table and references. The article will be of interest primarily to music therapists and to sociologists. Since the article is based on only two studies conducted by the authors, it suffers from its’ narrative nature, and would have benefitted from the inclusion of a greater number of statistics from other studies on the effects of music therapy on prison populations.