

## Online or Offline: A Pilot Study of Blended Ear-Training Course

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**Abstract :** This paper intends to present a pilot study of blended ear-training course at a Finnish university. The course ran for ten weeks and included both traditional (offline) group lessons for 90 minutes each week and an online learning platform. Twelve students majored in musicology and music education participated in the course. The aims of pilot research were to develop a new blended ear-training course at university level, to determine the ideal amount of workload in each part of the blended instruction (offline and online) and to develop the course material. The course material was selected from the Classical period in order to develop students' aural skills together with their stylistic knowledge. Students were asked to provide written feedback of the course content and learning approaches of face-to-face group lessons and online learning platform each week during the course. Therefore, the teaching material is continuously planned for each week. This qualitative data collection and weekly analysis of data are on progress. However, based on the teacher-researcher's experiences and the students' feedback already collected, it could be seen that the blended instruction would be an ideal teaching strategy for ear-training at the music programmes of universities to develop students' aural skills and stylistic knowledge. It is also presumed that such blended instruction with less workload would already improve university students' aural skills and related musicianship skills. The preliminary findings of research also indicated that students generally found those ear-training tasks the most useful to learn online that combined listening, singing, singing and playing an instrument. This paper intends to summarise the final results of the pilot study.

**Keywords :** blended-learning, ear-training, higher music education, online-learning, pilot study

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