Playing with Autism 1.1
Encountering Simona Concaro by Her Music

Edited by
Pierluigi Politi and Hanna Shybayeva

Encountering a young woman, suffering of low-functioning autism, by her music.

TOPIC AREA: Medical sciences

Playing with Autism contains twenty-four original pieces for piano, recorded and carefully transcribed in current music notation by Pierluigi Politi and Hanna Shybayeva. Simona Concaro, the author, is a young woman suffering of low-functioning autism. She lives in Cascina Rossago, a farm-community, designed to meet the needs of people with autism, in Oltrepo pavese (Italy).

Since she was three, Simona Concaro has created original compositions on piano, instrument she learned by herself, refusing any kind of musical education. In everyday life, Simona does not use verbal language and has low autonomy. Her music, on the contrary, contains interesting features – melodic, rhythmic and harmonic –, even in the presence of some iterative elements, typical of the autistic spectrum.

The volume is published by Pavia University Press.

«The actual will of expressing oneself and communicating with others has been for long debated (and even denied) in subjects with autism. We do hope this little book could help in understanding more of this peculiar human condition.»

From the Foreword of the book

Editors

Pierluigi Politi is Professor of Psychiatry and Head of Autism Lab, University of Pavia, Italy. In 2005, he founded the Orchestra Invisibile, assembling musicians with autism, students and Faculty.

Hanna Shybayeva is a concert pianist devoted to music in every form. Having been a child prodigy, she started her international career at the age of eleven and won a number of prizes in Europe and the US.

Details about the book: http://www.paviauniversitypress.it/catalogo/playing-with-autism-1-1/320

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