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Article: Performances by Creative Music Groups Including People with Disabilities - Concerning Participatory Ethics and Aesthetic Values

In art activities for social inclusion, it is important to offer styles of art that enable participants who have different values and techniques to join while emphasizing their resources. This kind of music style is considered in the fields of music therapy and community music, but for these works to be recognized by society at large it is also important to think about how they might be criticized or what their social impacts are. The entangled senses of ethics and aesthetic values must be unraveled to determine from which point acts by people who need support can be regarded as expression and what should be regarded as needing support.

In this presentation, I will discuss this point by referring to discussions in the field of creative music therapy, community music and contemporary art critiques on conversational pieces, with case examples of music projects by people with and without intellectual disabilities, and by musicians that I have been directing.

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Rii Numata, PhD is JMTA Board-Certified Music Therapist, and leads improvisational music making projects “The Otoasobi Project“ and “Otoasobi Kobo” for people with learning difficulties and musicians. Her current research is on the music styles of musical activities for social inclusion.

Some notable publications are ‘Musical Improvisation in Communities with Musicians and People with Learning Difficulties’ in Music and Arts in Action Vol.5(1) 2016, and ‘EinScream! : Possibilities of New Musical Ideas to Form a Community’ in Voices: A World Forum for Music Therapy Vol.9(1) 2009.