In Chile, music therapy is a young discipline and currently gaining recognition. Since 1999, the Universidad de Chile has offered a graduate training program in art therapies with a specialization in music therapy. The program was founded by Susanne Bauer, Patricia Lallana, and Patricia Ubilla, who all studied music therapy abroad. Eighty-three music therapists have graduated since then and about 50% are actively practicing music therapy.

Within the last few years, Chilean colleagues have studied music therapy in Argentina, USA, Spain, and Austria. Thus, there is a growing number of theoretical approaches in the field.

The Chilean Association of Music Therapists (ACHIM, www.achim.cl) was founded in 2005 and currently has 34 members. Forty percent of them work with young children.

Music therapy with young children is a subset of the larger field. Music therapists may work with individuals, groups, or families.

"Child, bluish from cold fingers, how you come and do not cover you, Oh my God! Child, suffering two jewels, fingers how pass without seeing you people!"
– Gabriela Mistral
music therapy with young children in Chile.

Other approaches applied are the “plurimodal approach” (after Diego Schapira) the “sound bath,” musical games as well as role play with hand puppets (after Lisa Sokolov).

Prominent Publications

About the Author
Paulina Alejandra Hernandez Quezada, credentials is a graduate from the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2007. She has specialized in the plurimodal approach in music therapy and in palliative pediatric care. In 2009, she returned to Chile, and presently she works in rehabilitation of children with burn symptoms as well as with individuals on the autism spectrum. Ms. Hernandez Quezada is the currently President of the Chilean Music Therapy Association (ACHIM).

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