Question 1: What forms of musilinguistic mediation were used?

Mediation strategies used:
- Explaining the cultural context (e.g., has lyrics in Spanish but not from Spain)
- Producing a written score (most Latin American music is orally transmitted)
- Writing an English translation of the lyrics (main consideration: had to be singable)
- Rehearsing pronunciation and rhythm patterns through spoken repetition in tempo

Some of the Spanish verses sung as solos by a native speaker

The majority remembered that the song was from a Spanish-speaking or Latin-American country. However only 14 (less than 1/3) could name the precise country.

Conclusion: Mediation had a largely positive effect on intercultural awareness. However some degree of reticence, misconceptions and ethnocentric assumptions were still apparent in a few participants.

Question 2: How effective were these in facilitating intercultural awareness?

Follow-up survey 6 months later: N=45 (85% female, aged 47 to 97)

Most (67%) said they enjoyed singing the song “very much”, but only 39% would “definitely” like to learn another song in the same language.

What singers liked:
- Accompaniment
- Difficult learning the words
- Found learning lyrics rather difficult
- Song
- Learning

What singers disliked:
- Accompaniment
- Learning
- Found learning lyrics rather difficult
- Song
- Finding

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New research directions
1. Multicompetence in musicians (especially in plurilingual contexts)
2. Musical translanguaging
3. Communities of practice in multilingual/multimusical contexts
4. Music in relation to intercultural competence and intercultural citizenship

References:
Available as a separate handout.
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Verbal music
People can sing very convincingly in languages that they do not speak
- Verbal music is multimodal: WORDS + MUSIC
- This also means that it can be multilingual

An example of musilinguistic mediation practices: Introducing a Venezuelan Christmas carol to a UK community choir

Verbal music
"verbal → music with lyrics "vocal" → produced by the human voice (e.g. humming)