

# Germany

## Lutz Neugebauer

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## Snapshot

### Area

357,022 square kilometers; Germany is located in central Europe, South of Denmark, between the Netherlands and Poland, and bordering the Baltic and North Seas.

### Population

81,305,856 (July 2011)

### Official Language

German

### Ethnic Groups

German 91.5%, Turkish 2.4%, other 6.1% (i.e., Greek, Italian, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish)

### Median Age

44.9 years

### Children under 6

4 million

### Sources

Statistisches Bundesamt (2010)  
[www.destatis.de](http://www.destatis.de)

The World Factbook  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html>



**"Music offers an understandable experience that needs no abstract thinking."  
– Clive Robbins and Paul Nordoff**

## Demographics

Germany has five music therapy organizations with approximately 2000 practicing members. The Deutsche Musiktherapeutische Gesellschaft ([www.musiktherapie.de](http://www.musiktherapie.de)) is the largest organization focusing on the professional development of music therapy as a scientific-based health profession. There are currently nine university-based training programs that offer music therapy degrees at both undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as several private institutes providing certificate degrees and professional development courses. Several research institutes investigate the benefits of music therapy with various populations. Scientific reports can be found in the German journal *Musiktherapeutische Umschau* as well as other national and international scientific journals.

## Background Information

The well-established German health system offers developmental screening of every child during regular well-child check-ups. Children who are at-risk receive various supports through early childhood intervention centers. Usually, children under the age of three stay at home with their families or attend daycare

centers. Schooling starts at the age of three, when every child has the right to attend a preschool in his or her community. Children with special needs are either included in regular preschools or are placed in special education groups. Special services, including music therapy are offered within those settings or in collaboration with community service providers.

Music therapy in Germany has a long tradition in serving young children and their families. One of the first training programs established at the University of Witten-Herdecke in the 1970s focused on the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy approach.

## Common Approaches

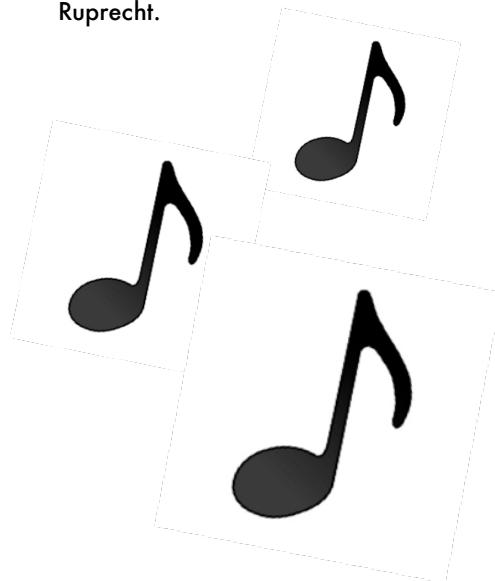
In 1990, a research and practice conference at the Institute for Music Therapy at the University of Witten/Herdecke revealed that approaches applied in early childhood music therapy are eclectic in nature and focus on the needs of the children served. The various approaches include anthroposophical, behavioral, psychoanalytical, developmental, integrative and humanistic, and regulative music therapy as well as Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy and Getrud Orff (Carl Orff's wife) music therapy. Music therapy for children under 5 is mostly offered in medical settings (e.g., NICU, pediatric

and psychiatric units, and rehabilitation centers), educational settings (e.g., early intervention centers, inclusive preschools, and special education facilities), and through private practice. Reimbursement for services in medical settings is covered by most health insurances whereas other music therapy services are mainly funded by foundations, sponsors, or private pay.

## Prominent Publications

- Aldridge, D., Gustorff, D., & Neugebauer, L. (1995). A pilot study of music therapy in the treatment of children with developmental delay. *Complementary Therapies in Medicine*, 3, 197-205.
- Haselbeck, F. (2012). Music therapy for premature infants and their parents: An integrative review. *Nordic Journal of Music Therapy*, 1-38. doi: 10.1080/08098131.2011.648653.
- Neugebauer, L. (2001). Kann Musiktherapie körperlich behinderten Kindern helfen? [Can music therapy help the physically handicapped child?]. In D. Aldridge (Ed.), *Kairos V: Musiktherapie mit Kindern: Beiträge zur Musiktherapie in der Medizin* (pp. 4-11). Bern, Switzerland: Verlag Hans Huber.
- Noecker-Ribaupierre, M. (Ed.) (2004). *Music therapy for premature and newborn infants*. Gilsum, NH: Barcelona Publishers.

- Plahl, C. & Koch-Temming, H. (2005). *Musiktherapie mit Kindern. Grundlagen, Methoden, Praxisfelder* [Music therapy with children. Foundations, methods, and settings]. Bern, Switzerland: Verlag Hans Huber.
- Schumacher, K., Calvet, C. & Reier, S. (2011). *Das EBQ-Instrument und seine entwicklungspsychologischen Grundlagen* [The EBQ instrument and its psycho developmental foundations]. Goetting: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht.
- Stiff, U., & Tüpker, R. (Ed.) (2007). *Kindermusiktherapie. Richtungen und Methoden* [Music therapy for children. Directions and methods]. Goetting: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht.



## About the Author



Lutz Neugebauer, Dr. rer. medic., MT-DMtG is the co-director of the Nordoff-Robbins Centre in Witten, Germany. His work focuses on young children with special needs and their families. From 1988 to 2006, Dr. Neugebauer was the Head of the Institute for Music Therapy at the University of Witte/Herdecke. Currently, he serves on the board of directors of the Deutsche Musiktherapeutische Gesellschaft.

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