

John Giacchi

Philosophy of Music

Personal

My path towards being a music educator has not been a straightforward one. However, through growing pains, family issues, job dissatisfaction, and feeling disillusioned and disenfranchised by life, music has been a constant. It is my passion and nothing would make me happier than sharing my love of music with others. Of course my training in music and education will be vital, but my additional degree in psychology will give me further insight to the learning process and my students' personalities. Likewise, my past in accounting and management will be beneficial when interacting with administration, doing budgets, and managing resources. Finally, as a father I feel I have unique insight into how children learn through a balance of structure and play. I believe this background experience along with my enthusiasm for learning new things makes me an ideal model for my students.

Learning

As a K-12 certified music teacher, there is a wide range of topics, ages, maturity levels, and learning abilities I will need to cover. I believe anybody can learn; as such, my teaching approach will be learner-centric. I will do whatever I can to ensure my students have a rich musical experience by building a solid foundation and adding to it. This progression, as seen in my curriculum, will heavily utilize spiral learning and scaffolding. Similarly, because I will be guiding my students through a broad range of learning and development beginning with what they know and using my expertise to expand on it, Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development will be evident. Lastly, because my students will have different learning styles, I will present

information aurally, orally, visually, and kinesthetically in a variety of enactive, iconic, and symbolic ways.

Though I gravitate towards Orff and Kodaly in the elementary classroom, I see value in and want to be familiar with multiple methods/approaches so I can convey information in a variety of ways for my students. I believe in sound before symbol. My students will learn to sing, move, and play instruments while I build their confidence through improvisation, exercises, and pieces. Then, I will work on their musical literacy and understanding. Reading is important and will further my students as musicians, but music making is how I will motivate them to keep learning and progressing.

Classroom Management

Though there is a lot of material to cover, music class should be an enjoyable time for students. In order to deliver all the information and keep the environment safe, supportive, and fun, I will rely on my natural enthusiasm and genuineness to engage the students. Of equal importance will be to employ strong organizational skills and well-sequenced lesson plans to sustain the flow of activities. But perhaps the best way I will manage my classroom is by having the students do as much “doing” as possible so that they do not find opportunities to become bored from too much “teacher time” or get off-task during transitioning time between activities.

Repertoire

The music that has had an impact on me ranges from classical to jazz, pop to world. I will use this broad appreciation of different musical styles to make the subject relevant and relatable for my students. I will use a systematic approach to expose students to a vast array of music. This diverse listening and performing repertoire will develop a well-versed musical

vocabulary and global musical awareness that will pique the student's interest in music such that they will want to continue studying it.

Diversity

I will celebrate student diversity in my classroom. Not only will it help establish a rich musical palate, it will aid in my students' awareness and acceptance of racial, ethnic, cultural, spiritual, and other differences that make the world such an interesting place. It is my view that all students should have meaningful participation regardless of their backgrounds. Therefore, it will be my job to ensure that I make the subject accessible and relatable to a diverse classroom. This will require knowing my students, employing a great deal of sensitivity, and being aware of and navigating the opinions and concerns of parents and the community. It will be an important skill to master as I do not want such issues to interfere with student learning. They come first.

Conclusion

I want to be a role model for my students by inspiring them, knowing them, and helping them in their endeavors both in and out of music class. I feel music in schools is important for many reasons: appreciating the arts, stimulating creative thinking, promoting hard work individually and in groups, building social connections, harnessing its therapeutic effects, and seeing its correlation to improved scores in other core subjects. It is clear to me that it is not a superficial discipline and is worth fighting for in schools. As such, I hope to bring the many benefits and joys of music to my students.