

Teaching Philosophy

My Practice:

I want to provide students with the opportunity to do and achieve anything they desire with music and become well-rounded musicians. My goal is to enable students to make music independently and become self-sufficient learners. As a result, students can enjoy music for their own playing and/or choose to become professional musicians.

My Dream:

Assist students to develop a life-long love and appreciation for music, music making and learning.

I TEACH MUSIC

Not because I expect you to be a great performer
Not because I expect you to play or sing all your life
Not so you can relax and take it easy
But so you will be human
So you will be sensitive
So you will be closer to God
So you will have something to cling to
So you will have more love, compassion, gentleness and good...
In short, more life.
Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless
you know how to live?

Author Unknown

My Philosophy:

My teaching philosophy remains simple and straightforward: I believe it is my responsibility as an instructor to provide students with the opportunity to do and achieve anything they desire with music and to become well-rounded musicians. Assisting students to make music independently and to become self-sufficient learners enables students to enjoy music for their own playing or to become professional musicians.

I believe every child is born with the desire to make music. Young children often try to express themselves through music and rhythm from early on. Music offers a great way to express feelings, to communicate and connect with each other. Overall, most people tend to be happier and more joyous with music in their lives.

Musical talent is a learned skill and has to be nurtured. Every child can be educated and the environment is the key. As an instructor, I provide a comfortable and inspiring environment to spark or

rekindle interest in young musicians starting at age 4. Adult learners can enjoy recreational music making by learning in a stress free environment.

Incorporating a curriculum into my teaching provides students with structure and clear outlines for achievements. Therefore, I have adopted following standards¹ into my teaching:

1. Ability to internalize basic rhythms and pulse.
2. Ability to read—musical literacy.
3. Ability to perform with physical ease and technical efficiency.
4. Ability to hear the notes on the page and ability to listen to, analyze, and describe music.
5. Ability to work creatively—improvise, compose, harmonize and play by ear.
6. Ability to understand basic elements of theory, form harmony, etc.
7. Ability to respond to the interpretive elements of the composition to express the emotional character of the music.
8. Ability to conceptualize and transfer musical ideas.
9. Ability to understand music in relationship to history and culture.
10. Ability to evaluate music and music performances.
11. Ability to work independently and to problem-solve.
12. Ability to perform comfortably individually and collaborate with others in a variety of settings.

Lessons are held on an individual basis and provide personal attention to the needs of each student. Depending on the individual student's learning modality (visual, aural, kinesthetic) and learning pace, I use a variety of methods and teaching tools to incorporate these standards into the students learning process. Fun activities, such as composition and theory games, encourage learning about music theory and history and further the creativity of the student. Workshops, music parties and student recitals offer an opportunity to make music together and play with accompanying parts and duets. In addition, students gain the experience of performing in front of an audience.

I believe it is my responsibility as an instructor to encourage and enable students to learn disciplined practicing and performance habits and develop a life-long love for music and learning. As Socrates said "I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think," inspiring students to be their best and outlining standards summarizes my role as an instructor.

¹ Adapted from MTNA's Essential Skills for Promoting a Lifelong Love of Music and Music Making and MENC's National Standards for Music Education.