

Music education is a broad, multi-faceted discipline. Many philosophies on how to teach and what to teach exist in the world, and there can be good things found in all of them. My philosophy as a teacher is going to be based on my current experience and what I've learned both in school and as a teacher, which means that my philosophy will change as I grow and learn. That being said, here is my philosophy about teaching music as of today.

Music is something that is deeply significant to people and to culture, and I plan to treat it as such in the classroom. It can be easy to dismiss music as something that's only done for fun or pleasure, and I want to allow it to exist in that way, but not without an underlying sense of importance and respect for the art. My teaching of it will be inclusive and I'll do my best to open as many doors as I can for my students, whether that be solo performances, scholarships, group performances, experiences they may not get otherwise, or anything else that will broaden their experiences and will cause them to appreciate music more.

Exposing students to good music that will both technically challenge them and encourage them to grow in their expression is something that is going to be difficult but incredibly important. I'll aim to select music that they'll have fun with, music that will take some getting used to, and music that will show them different cultures, languages, and techniques. I'll always be open to suggestions from them, and I'll let my students pick 1 or 2 pieces (from a pre-selected) group of pieces each year, so they feel like they have a decision in what they perform.

I want to create a safe space for students, where they can use music in whatever way they need, whether that's an escape from the daunting chemistry test next period or as a way to boost their mood during a rough day. I want to be available for my students not only as a professional, but as a person. I'm going to have fun with them, laugh with them, and cry with them if needed.

I want my philosophy as a teacher to be based on growth. I want to always be growing and learning, both from my students and from other teachers. I aim to never stop improving on my craft, for my sake, the students' sake, and the sake of the music we perform. I look forward to growing, and I realize this may involve some discomfort at times, but growth is so crucial to me.

With all of this said, the most important thing that I want to focus on is forming genuine relationships with as many students as I can. The best environment for learning is one where the students and teacher have a good relationship with each other. I want to encourage them to get better than me at their art. I want to support their non-musical endeavors. I want to meet them where they're at and push them to go farther.