



Teaching Philosophy Statement:

Teaching and learning constitute a symbiotic relationship where the instructor acts as a facilitator and the student acts as a collaborator. In my classroom, students and I cooperate to create knowledge through activities that enrich understanding of essential concepts, through discussions that spark curiosity and incite passion and self-growth, and through assessments that ensure that the students' individual interests are considered and addressed. I do not see my students as recipients of information, but rather as sources of diversified views and experiences that enrich and advance knowledge construction. I see teaching music as an opportunity to incite positive change in society and as a chance to demonstrate its potential influence on people. I teach so that students can see the correlation between discipline and self-growth, and so that they can experience the metaphysical artistic expression and communication that is unique to music.

My classroom is a safe environment where learning communities feel safe to take risks and be themselves. In all of the classes I have taught, I always start by asking students to share their interests, hobbies, and what they hope to take away from the class. This not only allows me to know each student better, but also to infer their individual needs and interests. Throughout the semester, I encourage my students to see past the curriculum and think about the reasons why music is important. I ask them to imagine how music enriches life and how bland it can be without its company. Parts of my lectures are planned so they can encourage students to think about times when music has deepened an experience and how by being a musician they can be that source of enhancement to someone else. In addition to this, I often pose myself as a relatable companion that can be easily approached for assistance and inspiration. By playing guitar in class, or by sharing my personal experiences, I make myself vulnerable in order to connect with students and let them know that I share or have shared their struggles and passions.

After seeing the influence I can have on my students and how passionate they can become about music, I am convinced that teaching is my vocation. I can exert change in society through my students, and I can tangibly reap the fruits of their achievements. I will continue learning more ways to make my knowledge-transmission skills more effective and continue discovering differing approaches that can benefit a more diverse student population. I look forward to furthering my music knowledge and my pedagogical expertise so that I can continue effecting change in society. All people deserve the privilege of receiving musical training. Music enriches life. It enhances our strongest emotions, and it is always there for us when we need it. No matter the age, talent, circumstance, or end-goal, everyone should experience the joy of understanding and appreciating the beauty of this timeless art.