

Teaching Music & Jazz

Why Teach Music?

- Part of society: appreciation and enjoyment, music industry, music jobs, religious, functional (e.g., ceremonies & parades), aesthetic values as an art form (perpetuating culture), etc...
- In education, music reinforces other areas: relationships exist between academic and social development skills, with participation in music (better creativity; stronger math & reading scores; generally higher grades).

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Why Teach Jazz?

- Philosophical rationale:
 - Provides a well-rounded curriculum (i.e., includes American music)
 - It is a recognized “art-form”
 - Recognized as a National Treasure (1987)
 - It is a codified body of knowledge

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Why Teach Jazz?

- Pedagogical rationale:
 - Relationships to improvement in other academics (i.e., math & reading)
 - Develops creativity (i.e., through improvisation)
 - Develops independence & confidence (see also Psychological rationale)
 - Helps to develop and reinforce music skills (e.g., intonation, blend, balance, sight-reading, rhythm)

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Why Teach Jazz?

- Psychological rationale:
 - Growth of a total individual (Humanistic approach)
 - Develops autonomy (i.e., independence & confidence), especially lead players
 - Intrinsically rewarding (i.e., since it is generally a popular style)
 - Helps realize self-actualization (i.e., through solo improvisation)

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Why Teach Jazz?

- Tangible rationale:
 - Can offer strong contributions to the school and community
 - Can attract additional student, parent, and community support
 - Can promote school through recognition at contests, festivals, etc...

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Can Jazz be taught?

- Myths:
 - “You either got it, or you don’t.”
 - “Analysis destroys the essence of Jazz.”
 - “You gotta play from the heart.”

- Controversies
 - Overloaded curriculum
 - Classical vs. Jazz
 - “Jazz has no place in music education.”