

Teaching Philosophy

The quintessence of a choral classroom stems from the relationships in which we, as educators, peers, and musicians, create with one another in order to foster a safe environment for vulnerability to thrive within music. The choral educator must create an environment that celebrates the different backgrounds in which students come from, and where they are at in their current journey of life. In order to help students feel safe and comfortable in the choral classroom, it is crucial to have the students feel heard. Have their culture be heard and seen, have their experiences be heard and seen, have their fears be heard and seen, have their joys and triumphs be heard and seen.

Allowing a space for choral students to be open, honest, and vulnerable, allows for the artistry of music to take place. Choral music is the lived, written and performed experiences of its creators. By creating a curriculum where students have the opportunity to explore many facets of music (i.e. music history, theory, classical and contemporary ensembles, aural skills, understanding DAWs, conducting, and whatever a student body may need to musically succeed). When students have the resources and opportunities to explore their interests, we as teachers are then able to foster a student driven learning environment where we can create well rounded and thoughtful human beings.

To have the ability to feel whole in one's own body and mind is an experience that is necessary in feeling safe, authentic, and inspired in the choral classroom. As a choral educator, it

is vital that I help guide my students to this feeling which then leads to a motivated, educated and inspired creation of the beautiful art that is choral music.