



Music Education Session Topics

Bob and Pam Phillips

Topics can also be customized for your situation – just contact Pam to discuss it!

*** new clinics for 2009***

Re-energizing the Beginning String Classroom: Many Roads to Success

Demonstration and discussion of multiple ways to approach some of the following concerns for a beginning string classroom: • Starting Class • Media and technology • Moving to music • Procedures • Flashcards/Powerpoint • Telling is not teaching: nonverbal teaching • Aural skills • Retention • Beautiful bow arms for beginners • Setting the right tone from the beginning • Pacing and classroom control • Pedagogical games • Method books and supplementary materials for strings

Teaching Technique and Expressive Playing Using Grade 1 and 2 Band and String Repertoire

Specific ideas and teaching tools will be presented that can be used with grade 1 and 2 band and string repertoire to teach technique and develop expressive playing. Examples from both band and string repertoire will be demonstrated and an exciting new Alfred band and string series that includes education packs will be introduced

Keynote and General Session Topics

These amazing talks are humorous sessions that will touch the heart of any music educator yet still include sound pedagogical and practical information that can be used next week in the classroom.

Staying on Fire without Burning Out

The highs and lows that make up a successful career in teaching: Create balance in your life. Avoid the pitfalls of burnout. Know the signs of burnout. And best of all, the solutions to burn out!

Do You Have a Vision and Do You Know How to Get There?

Let's set the vision for our kids and our community! The goal – excellent musical achievement! How do we set those goals, paint the picture, lead the way and still have a life? Goal setting and time management for those who love music but still need to take time to eat and sleep.

I Love BOC (Band, Orchestra, Choir)

Secrets of success for recruiting and motivating students that result in high retention rates and large programs. Who, what, why, where, when and how for all levels. Examples drawn from the string classroom but applicable to band and choir!

Public Relations and Advocacy by Design

If we don't do it, who will? But first – How do we develop support with administrators, parents, students, business and the community at large? How do administrators and school boards think? What does your community know about your program? Questions, questions! Let's talk about the answers! Showcase the success of your students and ensembles and have fun doing it!

String Alternatives: Fiddling, Jazz, Improvisation and Mariachi

Hear from one of the pioneers! Sessions illustrate the uses and fun of alternative styles in building technique, meeting the national standards, running an alternative music ensemble and building bigger and better programs at every level using fiddling and all the other styles.

Using Alternative Styles in Orchestra to Build Technique

Highly motivational, great fun but also can be used to reinforce and build technique. Learn how to implement alternative styles within your curriculum.

Fiddling at First

Using super simple fiddle tunes in the two years of instruction to motivate and educate. Great ideas to use both within the curriculum and without.

Forming and Running a Fiddle Group/Alt Styles Ensemble

How to create a fiddle/jazz/mariachi ensemble at any level. The details of teaching, organizing and running an ensemble will be covered with a touch of information about sound systems as well.

Swingin' Fiddles: Fun, Fundamentals and Fusion

Crossing over styles and the paper barrier. Fiddling, jazz, mariachi and more in the string orchestra. What makes the styles different, what makes them the same and how do you use them to develop technique, improve listening skills and build morale.

Shall We Dance? Energizing the Right Arm Using Alternative Styles of Music!

Encourage younger string students to develop bows that dance with fiddling, jazz, mariachi and other alternative styles. Develop students who play rhythmically and with energy while using the entire bow. Strategies and tips that develop energized, aggressive right arms through the use of alternative styles. Square Dance Tunes

String Fiesta

A musical party for your string orchestra with the music of the Mariachi. Fire up your chin and floor fiddles with musical flavors from south of the border while encouraging cross-cultural interest in strings.

Giant leaps, simple steps: improvisation made easy for orchestras

Improvisation made simple for teachers who are totally paper-trained. How to implement this national standard in a way that will create enthusiasm and musical skills in your developing string players. Elements of jazz style included!

Pedagogy and Practice for String Teachers: Preparing students for their future not our past.

Solid, practical, doable approaches to: the large heterogeneous beginning string class, building skills in beginners, instructional techniques for all ages, sight-reading, technology, recruiting and all aspects of developing great string students and a great string program!

Teaching Technique through Repertoire

How to extrapolate the techniques you need to teach from the repertoire you have chosen and how to choose the repertoire to support the technique you want to build.

More Kids in Music Means More Kids in Music!

Strategies for recruiting and retention. How to start and keep large numbers of students in your program. Emphasis on strings but applicable to band and choir as well.

Elementary String Instruction: Set-up for Success

One secret to a great high school orchestra is the first semester of beginning instruction. Learn from a master how to get your beginners on the right trajectory to success as musicians. Everything you wanted to know about starting string players but were afraid to ask.

So How Do I Teach a Large Heterogeneous String Class?

Does large group instruction really work? Yes, more really is better! Build excitement and skills for more kids and become an economic asset to your district – tips and techniques from 28 years in a highly successful large heterogeneous classroom!

The 3 Bs: Beautiful Bow Arms for Beginners

Techniques to introduce advanced right arm skills in the large heterogeneous string class. Set the right tone from the start!

To Bow or To Blow: String Teaching for the Non-String Player

So you are now teaching strings – no problem! Wind players and vocalists make great string educators. Learn the basic technical issues that will help you to be a successful string teacher.

Telling is not Teaching – Non-verbal Instruction

Play rather than talk! Improve the impact of your delivery with specific techniques and modes of instruction. Learn to use non-verbal modes of teaching and musical cues in your classroom that build success for your orchestra or band.

Teaching the Wonderfully Wacky: Technique for the Middle School Orchestra

Tested methods for teaching shifting, tuning, vibrato and advanced skills in the middle school string class

Beyond the Baton: Rehearsing the High School Orchestra

Set the stage to strive for excellence, refine technique and maintain enrollment in your high school orchestra with these exciting strategies and rehearsal techniques.

Sight-reading: Are you a Scout or a Jedi?

Are your students prepared or do they use the Force? Specific strategies to develop sight-reading skills with individuals and large group ensembles as well as improve note reading. How to use your time in the sight-reading room for maximum effect. Emphasis on strings but applicable to band and choir.

Bass-ically Bass – for a better sounding orchestra!

The secrets of the bass unveiled for orchestra teachers. What makes the basses different? How to feed and care for your bass section in a way that develops technical skills to equal the upper strings. Better bass-ics mean better orchestras.

Leave No Bass Behind – How to recruit, start and retain young bass players.

Develop great bass players in a heterogeneous classroom. Specific how-tos for recruiting and starting young bassists and setting them up to be as successful as the upper strings!

I Am So Excited! I Just Can't Wait For

How to structure guest artist concerts, residencies, professional shows and string nights at your school without stretching yourself too thin. How to use high impact events to build support and to create excitement in your community and school!

Composing and Arranging for the School Orchestra

From one of American's leading educational composers, learn how to blend and balance the musical elements needed to create successful orchestra compositions. An introduction to the world of educational publishing.

SmartMusic Made Easy for Strings: from Suzuki to Swing

No techno speak allowed! A very basic introduction to use one of the most exciting technologies available to string players today. The revolutionary software, SmartMusic, can be a boost for orchestra directors and studio teachers alike. See how this technology can help motivate, instruct, and evaluate using materials you are familiar with or make your own files. Not intended as an advanced session for teachers who already use the software.

Copyright: What Can I Do and What Can I NOT Do?

A basic introduction to print copyright for educators. Not intended as legal advice!

How Do I Get Published?

From one of American's leading educational composers and editors, learn an overview of the nuts and bolts of composition. The clinic will cover a bit about the musical needs of school orchestras, copyright and arranging, the business of educational publishing and how to present your work to editors.

I Wish I'd thought of That: Developing creative concert concepts.

Engage audiences and students with variety and creativity at concerts. Involve the community and the entire school to build support for music and for your program.

Public Relations and Advocacy by Design

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Do You Have a Vision and Do You Know How to Get There?

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From Composer to Student

Follow the path from pencil to performance. An overview of educational composition/arranging, submitting pieces for publication, the progress of a piece of music from the composer to the engraver, to printing, to marketing, to the music store and finally to your school. Find out how many people touch a piece of music from the time it is conceived until it is performed!

Applicable to Band, Orchestra and Choir Directors

These sessions will work wonderfully for a mixed group of directors with plenty of information for all.

More Kids in Music Means More Kids in Music!

www.phillipsfiddlers.com

Strategies for recruiting and retention. How to start and keep large numbers of students in your program. Emphasis on strings but applicable to band and choir as well.

Keep the Best AND the Rest

Learn the successful components of a high retention rate even in the midst of increased graduation requirements and scheduling changes.

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Sight-reading: Are you a Scout or a Jedi?

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Finale

An introduction in everyday language to the notation program that set the standard for musical software.

Yearly and Long Range Planning

Its easy to teach the same thing each year, but where do you want your program to be next year, 5 years from now? Let's investigate vision and planning within repertoire, curriculum, community support, events, recruiting, retention and your personal development as a teacher and a musician.

Team Music Department - let's stop circling the wagons and shooting in!

Success in all music classes builds more success for each portion of the department. We are stronger together than individually. Practical ideas! Great stories! Bigger really is better!

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From the Podium

Dynamic, skilled conducting and teaching for string or full orchestra!

Guest conducting:

From the All-State to the fiddle band, Classical and beyond

Reading sessions:

The latest in new educational music at all levels, classical, novelty and alternative styles.

Consulting and Commissions

Consulting:

Ongoing or one-time evaluations and recommendations for your school music program including curriculum, teamwork, scheduling and public relations. By phone or in person.

Commissions:

String or full orchestra pieces designed for your group. These can commemorate a specific occasion or a person. A commissioned piece can also be the centerpiece for advocacy, excitement and interest in your program.

To commission a piece, we will discuss your goal for the piece, the repertoire your group plays, when and where the piece will be performed and perhaps, even request a recording of your group.