



Music Ed Insights



Three Insights to take with you from...
**Staying Curious, Empathetic, and Optimistic
with Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand**

Develop curiosity in yourself and your students.

- Ask singers to “play that phrase.”
- Ask instrumentalists to “sing that phrase.”
- Note the interpretation differences between the two and discuss with your students.

Find the emotions in the music.

- If needed, provide the broad emotion. Then, ask students to name the specific emotion for them.
- In any given program, ensure that a variety of emotions and messages are present.
- Contrasting emotions and messages will draw more attention to each one.

Help your students to the next steps of empathy and optimism. Discover this with your students:

- Being curious about emotions, individual experiences, and societal maladies helps us develop empathy.
- Developing empathy and understanding will give us even more optimism about people and the world.
- Sometimes, though, optimism needs to come first, to motivate each other toward curiosity and empathy.

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