



Music Ed Insights



Three Insights to take with you from...
**From the Classroom to the Podium:
Supporting Aspiring Female Musicians
with Jerianne Larson**

Ten things educators can do to empower women in music education:

- Be a role model by modeling inclusive, respectful behavior towards all students and colleagues regardless of gender. Treat women as equals in leadership roles.
- Provide encouragement and opportunities for female students to pursue roles they may be hesitant about, like lead parts or band directing, and give them a platform to share ideas confidently.
- Congratulate and publicly support female colleagues when they win awards or achievements to normalize their success and counter any implicit biases.
- Address gender biases by using neutral terms for instruments and providing clothing options instead of gendered categories that could limit opportunities.
- Include women in important decision-making roles like music selection committees to give them a voice and influence over the direction of the program.
- Serve as mentors by providing guidance, advice and advocating for female students considering careers in music education, which may be unfamiliar to some.
- Educate all students on the historical contributions and barriers faced by pioneering women in music to increase representation and empower the next generation in the field.
- Connect interested female students to resources, organizations and networking opportunities that provide mentorship, scholarships and professional development for women in music.
- Treat all students, from elementary through college, equally with respect through consistent, unbiased language and behavior regardless of their gender or background.
- Recognize both the progress made in empowering women in music education since the 1970s, as well as the continued work still needed to fully achieve equality and representation across all levels.

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