



Music Ed Insights



Five Key Takeaways for Music Educators from... **Creativity in Teaching: Innovative Strategies for Ensembles of All Sizes with Mary Cogswell**

Expand Your Repertoire Resources

- Explore diverse composer databases like "And We Were Heard"
- Look beyond traditional publishing sources
- Seek out music by underrepresented composers
- Consider flex arrangements that accommodate varied ensemble sizes

Integrate Creativity Effortlessly

- Start with simple composition activities (2-3 minutes per class)
- Use technology tools like Chrome Music Lab and Groove Pizza
- Encourage student-led musical exploration
- Create safe performance spaces for student compositions

Embrace Flexible Musical Approaches

- Recognize that flex band arrangements aren't "less than"
- Design activities that engage all students simultaneously
- Consider electro-acoustic tracks for smaller ensembles
- Develop supplemental materials that connect music to students' lives

Make Composition Accessible

- Begin with familiar musical concepts (like "Hot Cross Buns")
- Use large staff paper for notation practice
- Pair students for collaborative composition
- Focus on short, achievable musical goals

Advocate for Arts Education

- Connect arts education across disciplines
- Demonstrate music's broader educational value
- Create opportunities for student leadership
- Support emerging composers and diverse musical voices

Bonus Tip: Stay curious and intentional about exploring new musical perspectives!

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