



Music Ed Insights



Key takeaways from:
**Beats, Bands, and Attention Spans:
A Conversation with Amani Roberts**

Start from how students actually listen.

- Today's kids are song-first, not album-first.
- Use artists they already love (e.g., Taylor Swift, Kendrick Lamar) to teach longer-form listening, lyrics, and story across a track.

Use beat-making as a doorway, not a detour.

- Many students prefer beats and production over traditional instruments.
- Simple tools like GarageBand and found sounds can hook them, then you connect their projects back to theory, form, and ensemble skills.

Sell the value of being a well-rounded musician.

- With music cut from schools, it's rarer to find artists who can play, sing, write, and understand theory.
- Show students that skills from band/choir/orchestra plus production make them more employable, more creative, and more independent in the industry.

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