



Music Ed Insights



Key takeaways from:

Cynthia Johnston Turner Live at IBA: Product, People, and Improvisation in the Band Room

Your Worth ≠ Your Ensemble's Sound

- Your value is not defined by how the band sounds.
- When you detach self-worth from performance, you become more patient, kind and clear.
- You can keep high standards without shame or fear.

Keep the Good Traditions, Lose the Harm

- Routines and “old school” structure can feel safe and comforting.
- The problem is not tradition; it's when it becomes harmful or boring.
- Ask: Who is included? Who is missing? Community always has an “edge.”

Improvisation Needs Rules, Not More Theory

- Concert-band improv doesn't have to be “jazz-theory hard.”
- Try the turn-the-stand idea: short section, no stopping, stay in key, similar style.
- Clear boundaries + listening = creative, musical, and fun for everyone.

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