

FIELD REPORT

EDUCATION THROUGH MUSIC

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SEPTEMBER 2021

30^{years} education through **MUSIC** 



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THE JOY OF TEACHING

ETM Music Teacher Arielle Lewis gets a lot of joy from her work at P.S. 55 in the Bronx. “The best part about teaching music is the look on the kids’ faces when I walk into class!” She exclaims. “I couldn’t see myself teaching anything else. **Children love music.**”

After a year and a half of teaching during the pandemic, which often meant teaching remotely, Arielle is thrilled to have all of her students in class this fall. Her first order of business was to learn every single student’s name (she has 600 students). “Knowing a kid’s name **helps that student feel safe and feel seen and heard.**” And making her kids feel safe helps them be better students in her music class, and in every class.

Arielle’s second priority: to have fun! “**I need them to have fun in my class,**” she says. “I used to want them to be perfect little music makers.

But I saw that they need to have fun in order to learn.” She uses familiar Disney songs, lots of movement, and different instruments to get her kids to engage. “Now they’re making music, and **they don’t even realize they’re learning!**”

“I COULDN’T SEE MYSELF TEACHING ANYTHING ELSE. CHILDREN LOVE MUSIC.”



Thanks to ETM’s generous donors, students in Arielle’s class have access to instruments, books, scarves for dancing, and lots of other awesome toys and activities. And they have also have access to Arielle herself, who brings expertise not just in music education, but in connecting to students, thanks to ETM’s dedicated professional development initiatives.

“Every gift people give to ETM is 100% used. All the resources I’ve gotten, all the

instruments, nothing has gone to waste.” And it all makes her classroom better and more fun, and her students open to learning.

Hear more from Arielle and get a look inside her classroom in our newest video by scanning here:



Music Teacher Myth

Myth: Every school has a music teacher.

Fact: In 2017, only 53% of NYC public schools had a full time music teacher.



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WHAT WE TEACH OUR TEACHERS

This August, ETM held its annual ETM Academy for music teachers. ETM Academy is an opportunity for our team of teachers to prepare for the coming year, within and outside the music room. We welcomed 26 new and returning teachers from around the country, introducing them to our best practices and approach to excellence in music education through sessions designed and led by and large by ETM staff and educators.

Over 35 hours of professional development workshops are held during the two-week ETM Academy, providing an opportunity to learn new skills, hone existing strengths, and create a collaborative network of teachers. This year, Academy learning sessions took place mostly

online, with one day of in-person seminars so our new teachers could meet their coworkers. While we—like everyone—aren’t sure exactly how the year will unfold, we know that giving our teachers additional skills and practical training is critical to help them navigate the ever-changing educational and public-health landscape.

Here is a sample of workshops held during our Academy:

Lesson Structure – How to establish the building blocks, components and pacing of an effective and well-designed lesson plan

First Days Music Class Model – Structures that support the first days of music class for elementary and secondary school age students; led by veteran ETM music teachers

Teaching & the Brain – Learning more about the human brain and how to apply brain science to instructional approaches

SEL Workshop: Rethinking Classroom

Norms – Recovering from the isolation and

disruption of the last school year will take a lot of work! How to utilize strategies from Social Emotional Learning with Dr. Scott Edgar

DrumPower Workshop – Participants will be learn to integrate SEL into music education through a hands-on workshop in West African drumming technique and pedagogical reflection through Drum Power

FROM REMOTE TO REAL LIFE

The school year has begun, and most of our country's students are back in a physical classroom this month, including all New York City public school students.

ETM's music teachers, serving 55 schools in 2021-22, are thrilled to be back in the classroom with their students. However, they still have to practice a lot of safety measures to keep students safe from COVID-19, and to ensure students are emotionally safe. A year and a half of a global pandemic has left some of our 24,000 students in ETM music classes feeling traumatized, academically behind their peers, and nervous to be in school at all.

Other variables our teachers are facing: different schools have different class sizes based on their ability to **socially distance their students**; the CDC still recommends three feet of social distance, but not all NYC schools have the space to do so. And some schools are ready to **resume choir, band, and orchestra**, while others are not, because of misgivings about virus transmission.

Thanks to the support of our donor community, ETM is able to provide our teachers with the training and resources to respond effectively to these challenges and provide our students

a high quality education. The biggest change ETM has implemented this year is how we approach music programming: we've reviewed our curricula to ensure that every note, every beat, every song, and every activity **supports our students' social emotional learning.**

We prepared our teachers this summer to use classroom activities to **build community** among their students. Now, our teachers know how to create engaging classroom systems and routines to **best support students' success.** ETM music teachers also learned how to engage students in the creation of classroom expectations, as opposed to writing the rules and consequences and posting them on the blackboard the first day of class.

We also made sure **every child feels represented in our music class**, not only through the diversity of music they hear in class, but also through the books they read with their music teacher, and the posters they see on the classroom walls celebrating cultures from around the world. While it's not exactly back to "normal," **thanks to the support of people like you**, we can continue to ensure that the students in our classroom are **staying safe, feeling heard, and making music this fall.**

What is Social Emotional Learning?

Social emotional learning (SEL) is the process of developing the self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills that are vital for school, work, and life success. Supporting SEL in the classroom helps students develop skills like problem-solving, self-discipline, empathy, and emotion management, which help students be successful in and out of the classroom. Master teacher and good friend of ETM Dr. Scott Edgar put it best: "SEL allows students to respond thoughtfully to situations in life, instead of react."

COVID-19 Guidelines for Music Class

- ETM music teachers are required to be vaccinated.
- Students and teachers will wear masks at all times.
- Classroom instruments will be sanitized before and after student use.
- Students will not share instruments during class.
- Outdoors remains the safest space, and teachers will teach outside when possible.
- Indoor rehearsals where students are singing or playing will be limited to 30 minutes. Outdoor rehearsal will be limited to 50 minutes.
- Students will be socially distance by 3 feet whenever possible.

These guidelines reflect September 2021 policies and will continue to change as public health officials learn more about COVID-19.



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ADVANCING THE FIELD OF MUSIC EDUCATION

ETM kicked off a new initiative to get people talking about the practice and future of music education with a spirited conversation about social-emotional learning (SEL).

ETM's work to advance the field of music education has long gone beyond the classroom. From partnerships with leading national music organizations, to collaborations with the Department of Education, to launching affiliate programs in California, Colorado, and Massachusetts, we believe that music education needs to be elevated and advocated for at all levels.

“THROUGH SEL . . . MY STUDENTS RELEASE THE STRESSES OF LIFE DURING MUSIC CLASS THAT THEY AREN'T ALLOWED TO IN THEIR OTHER ACADEMIC CLASSES.”

Our new discussion series, Music Forward, aims to further the field by bringing together experts, thought leaders and practitioners to share their research or experience concerning a particular topic, and engage in an open discussion about that subject.

The first session, held this summer, addressed the topic of social-emotional learning in school, and how music has a unique role to play in the development and well-being of a child. The session was hosted by **Manoj Susarla**, ETM board member and programs committee chair, with panelists **Dr. Scott Edgar** (associate

professor of music at Lake Forest College), **David Zusman** (co-founder, We Are All Music Foundation), **Dr. Alice Hammel** (music education faculty at James Madison University), and **Leawndra Thakur** (former ETM music teacher).

In that discussion Dr. Edgar shared how “...at its heart, Social-Emotional Learning provides teachers the ability to work with their students to build skills that are going to translate to help them confront life challenges, or as we like to think of it - the tests of life.”

Dr. Hammel added that “Through SEL and the way I teach my lessons, my students release the stresses of life during music class that they aren't allowed to in their other academic classes.”

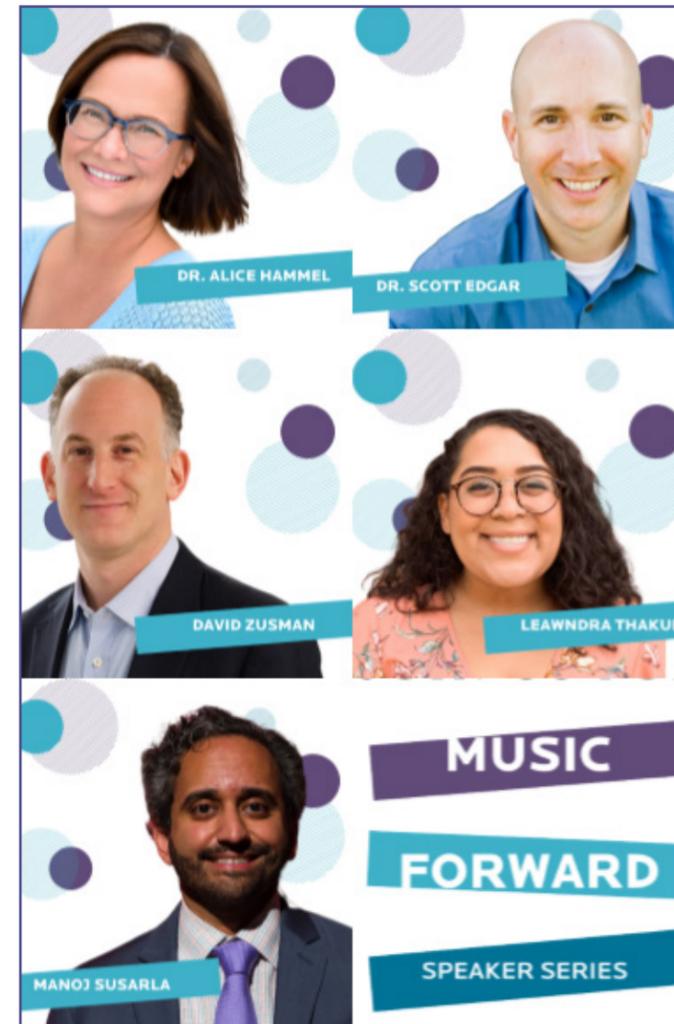
Watch the full session here:



How to Join Music Forward

Donors, teachers, volunteers and friends of ETM are invited to attend all future sessions of Music Forward, which will take place in October 2021, January 2022, March 2022, and May 2022. Each event is free and open to the public, and includes Q&A with the audience.

Upcoming discussions will tackle anti-racism in music education; measuring success and impact in the arts; technology in education; and more. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Director of Development Adam Arango by email at aarango@etmonline.org.



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Thank you to our incredible philanthropic partnerships from the following foundation, corporate, and government supporters that help bring music education to tens of thousands of NYC children each year.

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