

Why Approaching Music as a “Language” is far better than the Traditional Method

- Both verbal and music language serve the same purpose – They are both forms of expression to communicate. BUT, sometimes music can be better than a spoke language because it does not have to be understood to be effective.
- Musicians agree that music is a language but rarely treat it as such. Many treat it as something that can only be learned by following strict rules under the direction of a skilled teacher. This method’s been done for hundreds of years, with great success, BUT it takes too long.
- Think about the 1st language you learned, when you were a baby; you were allowed to make mistakes AND the more mistakes you made, the more your parents smiled!
- Learning to speak was not an event that your parents sent you to a few times per week. AND most of the people you spoke with were not beginners, BUT already proficient speakers.
- Imagine if you would have only been allowed to communicate with other babies. You would have probably been an adult before you were able to communicate. To use a musical term: “You were ALLOWED to JAM with professionals.
- “IF” we approach music in the same way that we learned to speak our native language, it is very possible to learn the Language of Music in the same short time it took to learn to speak.

KEYS FOR LEARNING or TEACHING MUSIC

1. Embrace mistakes instead of correcting them; like a playing air guitar, there are no wrong notes
2. Allow young musicians to play and perform with accomplished musicians on a regular basis
3. Encourage young musicians to play more than they practice; the more they play, the more they will practice on their own
4. Music comes from the musician, not the instrument
5. Music works best when you have something interesting to say. Most teachers only tell their students what they are to say, instead of asking them what they have to say
6. A child “Speaks” a language for years before they even learn the alphabet; too many rules at the beginning, proves to only slow them down

“In our eyes, the approach to music should be the same because music is a language too”