

# Diversity Sensitivity in the Music Classroom

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"People don't care how much  
you know until they know how  
much you care."

- Theodore Roosevelt



# Importance of Diversity Sensitivity

01

Promotes Cultural  
Awareness

02

Windows and Mirrors

03

Remove Negative  
Stereotypes

04

Appropriation vs.  
Appreciation



# Promoting Cultural Awareness



- Express interest in the culture of your students.
- Practice being a facilitator instead of instructor.
- Celebrate language diversity.
- Maintain a respectfully inclusive curriculum.

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# Windows and Mirrors

- You MUST represent every child in your classroom.
- Windows
  - Allow students to see cultures other than their own.
- Mirrors
  - Allow students to see their own culture reflected in the presented content.



# Removing Negative Stereotypes



- Learning does not take place without discussion, conversation, and acknowledgement
- What can I do?
  - Check and question your language (sweeping statements, sufficient context)
  - Create a welcoming environment free from bias
    - What is seen and what is said
  - Be diverse in what you teach and read
    - In the classroom and on our own
  - Honor multiple perspectives in your classroom
  - Have courageous conversations (admitting our mistakes is a powerful teaching moment for our students)



# Problematic Popular Songs

Think about how  
much music is  
truly out there...



"Songs with Questionable Pasts" - a longer list of songs with historical details



# Appropriation vs. Appreciation

- Taking one aspect of a culture that is not your own and using it for your own personal interest.
- Harmful when the source community is a minority group.
- Seeking to understand and learn about another culture in an effort to broaden your perspective and connect with others cross-culturally.
- Supports the source community.



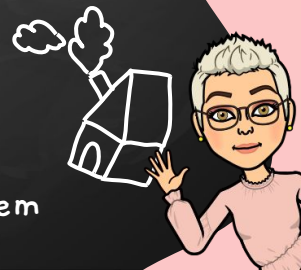


# Songs that Show Appreciation

Think about how  
much music is  
truly out there...



"Multicultural Music & Diversity Songs" - a longer list of songs and where to find them



# A Good Short Read...



## NAfME - "You Might Be Left with Silence When You're Done"

- The White Fear of Taking Racist Songs Out of Music Education
- Some impactful quotes from this article





# Thinking Deeper

What is one thing you can do, STARTING NOW, to be more sensitive to diversity within your classroom?





Questions?





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