General Music RI
professional development series 2020-21

¡Canta Conmigo! Children’s Music from Central America
Dr. Rachel Gibson
Saturday, September 12, 2020  9:00-1:00
Virtual or Rhode Island College TBD

Come sing, play, move, create, and experience joy with living music traditions from Central America. Participants will engage in repertoire that the presenter recently learned while living in Guatemala and Nicaragua. The music was collected from playgrounds, classrooms, and families, and represents diverse practices that span from traditional songs and singing games to contemporary children’s music that utilizes recorded media. The activities allow for musical play and movement, encourage lyrical improvisation, and foster community. The Spanish texts are accessible to learn and field videos will be shown to demonstrate the songs’ authentic contexts. Strategies for integrating the collection into Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Pedagogies will also be discussed.

¡Ven a cantar y jugar! Come sing and play! Join us for this workshop sponsored with Boston Area Kodály Educators (BAKE) and RIC NAfME Chapter.

Developing Critical Views and Practices for the Music Classroom
Brandi Pace & Lorelei Batislaong
Saturday, November 7, 2020  9:00-noon
Virtual or location TBD

As teachers, we bring to our classrooms our own lived experiences that guide and inform our choices. Educators are tasked with teaching an increasingly diverse population of students, yet the current teaching population, as a whole, is not as diverse as the current student body. Direct conversations surrounding race, cultural dominance, and marginalization of the experiences, practices, and traditions of Black, Brown, and Indigenous People (BBIP) are not common in our training. Through discussion of our journey as educators and examples of what we have uncovered about some common repertoire, we will discuss concepts of decolonization, anti racism, and other relevant frameworks in music education, and how we can question traditional educational structures and address systemic issues.

Cultivating Engaging Music Lessons ANYWHERE
Nick Holland-Garcia
Saturday, March 6, 2021  9:00-noon (during the Elementary All-State Chorus read-through)  Virtual or EAC rehearsal location TBD

The teaching world has changed. Educators are called upon to work in learning environments that have been unprecedented in previous decades, but one thing remains the same: students deserve a rich musicking experience. This interactive workshop will examine strategies for developing and adapting engaging musical lessons for teachers whether they are in face-to-face, hybrid, or distance learning environments. Topics will include balancing virtual and “IRL” (in real life) activities, methods for assessment, developing narratives and characters, utilizing technology and online resources, and methods for flow and maximum musicking. Participants will leave with ideas for how to adapt their current lessons, teaching style, and method for ANY learning environment. Co-sponsored with URI NAfME Chapter.

Model Classroom Visits

Take one of your professional development days during the week to observe another colleague in the state. With guidelines evolving in response to the covid-19 pandemic, Bridget and Raffi are accommodating what this may look like as the school year progresses.

TBA:  Raffi Rachdouni  Grades K-5, Orlo Ave & Whiteknact Elementary Schools, East Providence
TBA:  Bridget Baird  Lower School, The Gordon School, East Providence

Professional learning unit certificates will be offered for hours attended. Registration and fees can be found on www.rimea.org. Locations will be determined due to covid-19 fluid guidelines for 2020-21.

General Music RI Newsletters are issued seasonally through RIMEA.

Elemental music is never just music. It's bound up with movement, dance and speech, and so it is a form of music in which one must participate, in which one is involved not as a listener but as a co-performer. -Carl Orff