

Statement of Music Teaching Philosophy by James Adams

In the 21st Century, the role of music in culture, education and people's lives is in an accelerated state of change. Advancements in computer technology have contributed to the mass dissemination of music on a global scale, granting musicians, music scholars and listeners alike resources to instantly access our world's vast music repertoire. Advancements in imaging and computational technologies have granted us insight into how music training, listening and studies affect the synaptic processes and development of the human brain. Drawing upon culture and science, new fields of music study have emerged that support and expand upon more traditional practices. Within these new fields, scientific evidence is being discovered that demonstrates the positive effects of music learning and participation throughout a person's lifetime. I believe that the more scientific knowledge we learn about the benefits of music education, and the more that people are made aware of this information, the more likely that music education's importance will be acknowledged within our culture and education system as a whole. In support of this, I strive to follow and participate in the development and research of these new fields of music study, share my knowledge with students and colleagues, and continue to hone my own skills as a lifelong musician and teacher of music.

The study of music has made me the person that I am today. Through academic research and years of personal experience, I can see that music is more than just an expressive art: it is a biological trait of humanity that is inseparable from our existence. As a teacher, I encourage the exploration of music and learning in addition to the appreciation of music as an expressive art form. I find the study of how music benefits people physically, psychologically, and neurologically to be crucial to a music student's overall understanding of music as an art and as a biological trait of human beings.