

2018 NAFME All-National Honor Ensembles Directors' Academies – Orchestra led by Matthew H. Spieker

Monday, November 26

Session 1 - 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Session 1a (1 Hour) – MLT for Strings

Session 1b (1.5 Hours) – The Warm Up

Session 2 - 1:30 - 4:30 PM

Session 2a (1.5 Hours) – The Right Finger on the Right Spot

Session 2b (1.5 Hours) – Quick Fixes for Strings

Tuesday, November 27

Session 3 - 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Session 3a (1.5 Hours) – Pet Peeves of a String Adjudicator

Session 3b (1 Hour) – The Magic of Music

MLT for Strings

Tired of teaching music in the same way and getting the same results? Have you wondered if there is an alternative way to approach music education? Through a mountain of research and field experience, Music Learning Theory (MLT) has shown there is a better way, but for many music teachers it remains a theory. Come explore contemporary thinking about how kids learn music. We will discover these ideas with a “hands on” approach through playing your string instrument and singing.

The Warm Up

The warm up is like vitamins for your ensemble. It provides your students with the recommended daily allowance of musicianship skills by supplementing young musicians with intonation practice, harmonic awareness, rhythmic and articulation accuracy, shifting skills, ensemble togetherness and more. From struggling to the advanced students, everybody benefits through a warm up routine. This workshop will be “hands on” so bring your string instrument and uncover this vital aspect of the rehearsal.

The Right Finger on the Right Spot

“Good intonation is easy” he said, “you simply put the right finger on the right spot!” This is how an old professor explained intonation to me. I had about ten years of experience teaching strings and I knew the statement was oversimplified, but it wasn’t wrong. This workshop is packed with ideas for teaching intonation. Concepts covered will be fingerboard mapping, hand frames, wiggle strings, and more. Bring your string instrument because this is “hands on” work.

Quick Fixes for Strings

Some things in a strings classroom take time to solve, but you may be surprised to learn there are many issues that can be fixed quickly. These “quick fixes” are items I learned through experience and from my travels visiting many classrooms across the country. There are a lot of good ideas out there! Come hear them in this eclectic workshop.



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Pet Peeves of a String Adjudicator

Have you ever wondered what string adjudicators think about while judging contest? This session is a collection of thoughts from many different clinicians who find themselves regularly talking about the same, or similar, things to ensembles. Some issues can be fixed easily, others may take a little work, and a few might make you chuckle. Festival is important for students and perhaps this workshop can help you avoid some “triggers” that would set off an adjudicator’s “pet peeves”.

The Magic of Music

This is a philosophical talk designed to remind us of music’s magic in a child’s life. We often forget this basic truth and yet it will sustain us, keep us focused, and motivated us as we do this important work. Our students deserve the opportunity to discover music’s powerful magic and we are given the privilege to introduce it them to it. Come and be reminded about the greatest subject on earth.



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