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You, Me & A Cup of Tea

Meet Today's Guest
Co-Host and DJ:

Lin-Manuel Miranda
Composer | Actor | Singer/Songwriter

Success Through Exceptional Music

HAMILTON

LEARNING GONIGHT!
LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA
interviewed by JUNNY SUN

November 23, 2020

Dear Lin-Manuel -

I have been a high school band director for over 30 years. On May 28, my honors wind ensemble was supposed to perform at Carnegie Hall and spend five days in NYC going to Broadway shows and visiting various venues. Covid changed all that.

We are now in our ninth month of distance learning. ONLINE BAND? What the heck does that even mean?

To say that musicians and young artists around the country are struggling right now is an understatement. You and I know that the arts provide so many students healthy ways to cope and channel their emotions during difficult times. Whether they are in a virtual environment, hybrid model, or in-person wearing masks and being six feet apart, nothing about this year is normal - and many students who rely on the support of their friends in their music and arts classes are really having a hard time.

I am reaching out to you because 10 minutes of your time could make a HUGE difference in the lives of student artists and arts educators around the world.

I speak and run professional development all over the world for arts educators, and I can tell you they are struggling right now. Keeping students engaged and excited about making music when they can't do it in the ways they've grown to love has broken their hearts and it's becoming a stark reality that kids are grieving the loss of the camaraderie, artistry, and teamwork that comes through the performing arts.

In just a few months, students around the US will be registering for their classes for next year - and teachers are terrified of the losses they'll face as students look for other electives because online band, choir, orchestra, and drama just aren't the same. This is a crucial time for the future of arts education. If we lose lots of students this year, building back will be a decade-long process.

I am sending you this note, my books, and a link to a 90-second video in hopes that I can get your attention long enough to let you know I am serious about the future of arts education and believe that through my request to you that we can share our 10-minute "You, Me & A Cup of Tea" video interview with students and teachers everywhere and give them a little hope, inspiration, and motivation to use this time to create, learn, and express themselves through the arts.

Below is a link to a 90 second explanation of my proposal. I hope you can give it consideration. You'll not only help me teach my students a very important lesson and make some dreams come true in the meantime, but by sharing it with other arts educators, we can help them think creatively and in ways that serve their students and their programs during this unusual time.

Many thanks for any consideration you give this. I look forward to helping inspire teachers and students to create and grow as artists through the magic of music education - even during a pandemic.

With Much Hope -

Lesley

<https://youtu.be/tPhe3DdsQ9M>