

# Engaging the entire ensemble and building a culture of community and collaboration

Presentation at the  
2019 PMEA District 7 Professional Development Day  
By Travis J. Weller, Messiah College  
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York College

- I. So many questions:
- A. What is the future of the large music ensemble in school settings?
  - B. What do we hope to accomplish through educating students in music within this ensemble?
  - C. How can we make each musical experience in the large ensemble more meaningful for all of our students?
- II. A few personal questions:
- Three words that describe you:
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- Three words that describe your ensemble
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- What three words would your students use to describe you?
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- What three words would your students use to describe your ensemble?
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- III. What are students getting from you?
- A. The room where it happens?
  - B. Is your “how” and “what” impeding the “why” of your students?
  - C. The environment and culture you create and encourage will impact the experience of the students in your program.
  - D. ***It starts with you.***
- IV. Beyond Notes and Rhythms
- A. 2017 Study by Nehring:
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- B. 1995 Study by Hendel:
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- C. 2010 Study by Button:
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- V. More than “soft skills”
- A. Directors can be intentional.
  - B. Directors cannot go it alone.

- VI. Simon Says...
- A. The parallel between successful organizations and ensembles is real.
  - B. The values seen in those groups transfer easily to the large music ensemble.
- VII. “You Must Learn Control”
- A. What can we actually control?
  - B. The risk of mezzo-nothing.
  - C. Our responsibility to the medium.
  - D. Meaningful experiences come from the culture we initiate.
- VIII. Seven Signs of Successful Ensembles
- A. Trust
  - B. Competence
  - C. Cooperation
  - D. Respect
  - E. Courage
  - F. Passion
  - G. Pride
- IX. What can these qualities/values look like in an ensemble?
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  - F.
  - G.

- X. Why does it matter? A Live Story in Sound

**Contact Information**

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