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Overview of Data from Chamber Music Unit Exit Survey

From their statements, scholarly research, and other sources I created an exit survey on the chamber music unit for all my students to take. Students rated their level of agreement with each statement with a rating of 7 indicating "Very strongly agree" and a rating of 1 indicating "Very strongly disagree".

- 1) The chamber music/small ensemble experience in which I participated for was enjoyable.
- 2) The chamber music I was assigned to perform was appropriate for my current ability level.
- 3) The chamber music experience improved my tonal accuracy (ability to play correct notes).
- 4) The chamber music experience improved my rhythmic accuracy (ability to play correct rhythms).
- 5) The chamber music experience improved my expressive skills (ability to perform varying dynamics, articulations, ensemble blend and balance).
- 6) The chamber music experience improved my listening skills and knowledge of musical terms.
- 7) I am more confident as a musician after having participated in a chamber music group.
- 8) I enjoyed the personal and collective responsibility that the chamber music experience required.
- 9) I would like to have additional opportunities to perform in a chamber group/small ensemble in the future.

	Junior High (7-8) Data				Senior High (9-12) Data				
	2012		2016		2012		2016		
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	
Statement 1	3.98	1.06	5.50	1.09	3.88	1.13	5.72	1.14	
Statement 2	4.17	0.90	5.35	1.58	3.84	0.99	5.41	1.19	
Statement 3	4.06	0.83	5.67	1.12	3.93	1.04	5.43	1.38	
Statement 4	4.04	0.95	5.56	1.04	4.05	1.01	5.60	1.20	
Statement 5	3.98	0.90	5.24	0.99	4.27	0.62	5.50	1.11	
Statement 6	4.15	0.69	5.48	1.37	3.90	0.62	5.52	1.33	
Statement 7	3.96	0.79	5.50	1.41	4.14	0.80	5.71	1.11	

Statement 8	4.31	0.78	5.91	0.98	3.95	0.91	5.57	1.39
Statement 9	3.62	1.12	5.85	1.32	3.48	1.17	5.53	1.38

The initial review of data brings forward several salient points. The overall mean for each statement in 2012 hovered near or slightly below "Neither agree or disagree". In 2016, there was a significant jump in the mean in both groups with the lowest mean being 5.24. Among the Junior High Students, statement 5 had the second lowest standard deviation indicating the students were generally in agreement about the experience. While there was more variability among ratings in 2016, the level of agreement about different aspects of the Chamber Music Experience was noticeably higher.

In 2012 among the JH Responses, 10 of the 36 pairs would indicate a moderate positive correlation. In 2016, 12 of the 36 pairs indicated a moderate positive correlation.

In 2012 among the SH Responses, only 6 pairs would indicate a moderate positive correlation, and 1 pair indicated a high positive correlation. In 2016, 10 of the 36 pairs indicate a moderate positive correlation, and 2 pairs indicated a high positive correlation. In 2016, the relationship between Item #1 and Item #8, and Item #7 and Item #8 were both found to statistically significant (p < 0.001 level).

A test of Cronbach's alpha (α) was used on the responses provided by the students, and it yielded α = 0.880 for 2016 and α = 0.871 for SH, and for the JH Students α = 0.861 for 2016 and α = 0.823 for 2012. This alpha level fell into a desirable level for research using Likert scales (Santos, 1999).

Additionally, an inter-item correlation of the *CBREC* for all nine items were conducted on the data from both 2012 and 2016. Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) is a measure of the strength and direction of the association between two variables on an interval scale. According to Hinkle, Wiersma, and Jurs (2003, p. 109), a correlation coefficient between 0.50 and 0.70 would indicate a moderate positive (or negative correlation) and coefficients between 0.70 and 0.90 would indicate a high positive correlation (or negative correlation).

Hinkle, D.E., Wiersma, W. & Jurs, S.G. (2003). *Applied statistics for the behavioral sciences*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Santos, J. R. A. (1999). Cronbach's alpha: A tool for assessing the reliability of scales. *Journal of Extension*, *37*(2).