Top Ten Steps to Expressive Student Performances
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Problematic Teacher Quotes - Where does expressiveness come from, anyway?

Top Ten Steps to Expressive Student Performances (in descending order)

10) Utilize Technique
   (a) fundamental: "Make a good cake before you put on the frosting"
   (b) purposeful: - Speak in technical terms to get results (breath, placement, vibrato, etc.)

9) Provide students with several recordings to compare and contrast
   (YouTube and beyond)

8) Teach historical background; help students understand composer’s life and intent
   - Research shows... (Hendricks, 2010)

7) Use descriptive sensory adjectives (e.g., color, texture, taste, smell) and metaphor
   - "Now play it blue." "Swim in honey." "Make it sound like fresh baked bread."

6) Encourage movement
   - PS22, Simón Bolívar, etc.
   - It can be as easy as "Left, right"

5) Reduce competition and social comparison; emphasize community
   - Research shows... (Hendricks, 2009)

4) Interdisciplinary lessons, especially with other arts (drama, literature, dance, visual art)
   - Improvisation, expressive freedom

3) Promote student ownership and choice (repertoire, phrasing, articulation, apparel, etc.)
   - Research shows... (Csikszentmihalyi, 1990; O’Neill, 2005; Stipek, 2002)

2) Connect music with a specific purpose (remembrance, celebration)
   - MLK commemoration, remembrance of loved one, holiday festival

1) Connect with people (composer, audience, other, self)
   - Service through music, audience connection, personal awareness
References


