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Teaching Statement

Humanity possesses an insatiable curiosity, driving us to explore and engage with the intricate and breathtaking world that surrounds us. Music, as a creative realm, offers a boundless avenue for exploration. Its language serves as a constant source of emotional expression, surpassing the limitations of spoken and written words, and connects us through our shared desire for self-expression. The journey of learning and teaching shapes our personal development, and music serves as a powerful catalyst through which we can nurture and express our shared humanity.

I firmly believe that a music instructor's dedication to helping students understand the wonders of the world should be no different from that of a biology, chemistry, or mathematics teacher. In every educational field, teachers should exhibit a passion for imparting knowledge in a compassionate manner that resonates with each student on an enduring, individual level.

The pursuit of knowledge is an ongoing endeavor, and my aim is to share the insights I have gained from my experiences to help others appreciate the power of arts education. As an artist, I hold a deep respect for the historically informed performance tradition. This serves as a crucial means of presenting historical works while honoring the composer's original intentions and effectively conveying them in contemporary contexts. The intricate nuances of classical music necessitate in-depth and immersive study, and I have been fortunate to learn from inspiring experts during my academic journey. Consequently, I view the philosophies of perennialism and essentialism as vital for success as a pianist since they allow for the absorption of established masterworks and techniques from the repertoire. Furthermore, I actively champion the work of BIPOC, living composers and more, frequently drawing upon their contributions to enrich pedagogy in a contemporary context.

I aim to provide my students with support and guidance throughout their individual musical journeys, fostering a strong sense of independence and self-motivation in the process. I recognize that every student possesses unique artistic perspectives, and I encourage them to explore their own values and find meaning in their musical choices through an existentialist lens.

Research has shown that learning to play musical instruments offers a multitude of advantages for academic, physical, and emotional development in the brain. For children, it plays a crucial role in enhancing speech and reading skills, cultivating heightened concentration and prolonged attentiveness, and boosting emotional intelligence and self-confidence.

Moreover, the benefits of music education extend well beyond early childhood, with no age limit on engaging with and appreciating music. Even for those who discontinue formal lessons, the opportunity to support music and the arts within their communities remains. Additionally, age is no barrier to staying actively involved in music. My commitment is to tailor my teaching approach to

the unique motivations and interests of each student, guiding them along a practical and inherently motivating path to success. I affirm the spiritual truth contained in Beethoven's words: "Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy. Music is the electrical soil in which the spirit lives, thinks and invents," asserting that music has a distinctive role in exerting influence on the soul.

With the progression of technology in society, the necessity of a music teacher may be in question. Allow me to attest that there is no replacement or surrogate for the personal input and guidance of a teacher. While technology can certainly enhance music education, effective learning is best achieved under the direction of an experienced teacher.

I firmly believe that effective communication is the cornerstone for helping students achieve their desired goals. This communication begins with a clear delineation of both the student's expectations and my own as a tutor. My commitment is to offer valuable and hands-on guidance in fostering each student's artistic growth through well-structured weekly lessons and assignments, taking into account the student's limitations while actively working to broaden their skills. Teaching demands a continual adaptation to the evolving needs of each individual as they progress on their journey. This necessitates patience and keen perception on my part, a process that in turn, influences my own growth as an educator.

Students must take responsibility for lesson preparation and approach their learning with enthusiasm and eagerness. Active participation and effective communication are essential for fostering a strong student-teacher relationship built on mutual respect. Once this connection is established, whether in the realm of music or any other discipline, the study of the arts becomes an enjoyable pursuit. Music is inherently enjoyable, and lessons should reflect that joy!

In my teaching, piano lessons encompass a wide spectrum of activities and knowledge, and I actively encourage students to develop into versatile and knowledgeable musicians. This broad curriculum goes beyond piano technique and covers areas such as rhythm and movement, aural perception, sight playing and singing, improvisation and composition, music theory, music history, exposure to a diverse array of repertoire, public performance training, collaborative preparation, listening assignments, and various other musical aspects.

I embrace the humanist philosophy of education, which places a strong emphasis on nurturing the complete development of each student, encompassing their emotional, social, and intellectual dimensions. I firmly believe that self-worth, mental well-being, and spiritual health are foundational elements for achieving artistic success. In my role as an educator, I am dedicated to facilitating this personal growth through a combination of private lessons, individualized guidance, and classroom instruction. Through my eclectic and empathetic style, I aim to instill in my students a sense of purpose, responsibility, and a deep understanding of the world that goes beyond mere knowledge, fostering their growth as individuals who contribute positively to society.

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