



Brad Jefford Music - Teaching Philosophy

Teaching Values

Music and creative arts are crucially important for emotional development, communication skills, and critical thinking. In today's digital world the social interaction and creativity involved in the arts is more important than it has ever been. In our lessons we always strive to:

- Make music fun and social! This is the role music occupies in our society and we aim to reflect that in our lessons
- Keep creativity as our driving musical force, not only by creating new music but also when studying the music of our favourite artists
- Utilize technology in meaningful ways that enhance our ability to play music with and for others; making sure it does not distract from our goals
- Practice improvisation and problem solving skills to enhance our critical thinking and the overall learning experience. This allows students to express themselves through music, but also strengthens their problem solving and creative skills in all aspects of their lives.
- Giving students choice, responsibility, and autonomy in their learning is the key to personal growth.

Role of the Teacher

An efficient and effective teacher should always relate to the mind of the learner. As professional musicians and teachers, the task of remembering what it's like to be learning can sometimes be difficult. To make sure I am able to provide you with the best learning experience:

- I continually push my own learning experiences through higher education. This keeps me well acquainted with my learner mind and provides the latest teaching materials, research, and methods.
- I maintain a busy career as a professional musician. This ensures I can provide real life performance experience in our lessons
- I work as a teacher in the NLESD k-12 school system. This keeps me in contact with beginner minds and makes sure my teaching always stays current
- Whether you're 8 or 80, our approach adapts to your developmental stage and life goals, ensuring every student receives instruction that matches their learning capacity and personal musical aspirations.

Role of the Student

You, the student, are the key to the direction of your lesson progress. All lessons are geared toward the students interests, ability, and musical goals. All music has technical challenges and

problems that need to be solved by the musician. To make sure your lessons are the best possible learning experience we will:

- Learn music that you are interested in! As your teacher I will study the music you choose and teach you the skills and techniques that the music requires. I will also suggest pieces to learn that will enhance any deficiencies I find in your playing.
- Find your learning style! Everyone has different learning styles, since our lessons are one-on-one we are able to cater to your specific learning style by experimenting with auditory(listening), visual(reading), physical(kinesthetic), verbal (linguistic), as well as social and solitary learning methods to find what works best for you.