

What's Their Bright Idea?!



The following is a brief summary of each of the bright ideas shared at the teacher forum November 2018. Photos referenced in the summaries can be found in individual powerpoints. Summaries are provided here in the order that they were presented.

Rosemary Olsen—Do Dots for Practicing Solfege. “The ability to audiate is the most fundamental factor in developing musicianship” (Edwin Gordon), yet most of us aren’t formally taught how or encouraged to do this until we study music in college. Rosemary shared her engaging musical manipulative using a long staff and foam dots. She teaches her students a game: dots are divided by color into separate cups. When the dice is rolled, the student takes a dot from a cup with the corresponding number, sings the solfege name and pitch, and places it on the staff. Rosemary will also have a “name that tune” solfege challenge for the students to figure out when they first enter her studio. Don’t miss the photos in her powerpoint presentation of her darling grandchildren “playing” with the do-dots, singing, and noticing patterns.

Dr. Christie Sowby—Summer Competitions: How to Get Your Students to Practice MORE During the Summer. Be sure to look at Christie’s presentation for her MANY, MANY detailed, tried-and-true ideas for how to incorporate various competitions to use amongst your students and for links to some fantastic resources to help you do thies. Some of her ideas include minutes practiced, LDS hymns (simplified, standard, advancing to Bach chorales for the advanced student), youtube listening and questions, fastest (5-finger patterns, scales, arpeggios, octaves), musical vocabulary tests, rhythm books, sightreading (by book or minutes), flashcards, learn an entire concerto movement in the month of July.

Tiffany Bailey—Treat Your Studio Like a Business. When you treat your studio like a business your income will increase, you will be more satisfied, and your students will even have an improved experience. Tiffany recommends the book *Business Boutique: A Woman’s Guide for Making Money Doing What She Loves* by Christy Wright, as well as Christy’s podcast (Christy Wright’s Business Boutique).

Pamela Friske—Presentation, Presentation, Presentation: Studio Themes for Parent and Student Engagement. Do you want to get your students’ attention? And make sure they look at their binder throughout the week? And be excited to practice? Then consider using a theme that visually invites them into your studio, incorporates incentive activities, and organizes their student notebook. This year Pam used The Greatest Showman and incorporated visual elements of stars, circus animals, a circus tent, ferris wheel, tickets, etc. to bring attention to repertoire, technique, vocal exercises, parent letters, and so on. Be sure to look at the photos in her powerpoint for inspiration on how to incorporate a theme in your studio.

Patrice Hunt—8 Pass-offs Away ... Getting your students to want to practice.

Patrice shared her method of organizing herself and her students to keep them motivated through their weekly practicing. Students know they will have 8 assignments each week and are encouraged to spend about/at least 5 minutes on each assignment. Patrice keeps track of how many assignments they pass off each week (8/8, 5/8, etc.). This helps her to easily see how the students are progressing and which need extra encouragement or parental involvement. She also incorporates challenges such as “anyone with 90% or better this semester earns a horseback ride over Christmas break!”

Tiffany Horrocks—Summer Practice Party. Students accumulate minutes throughout the summer by practicing at the piano or listening to music (youtube, etc.). At the end of the summer she hosts a party that they can redeem their minutes for a ticket to and auction points for prizes. Tiffany also shared the name of a fantastic resource—Paloma Summer Listening Calendar—to keep students listening every day of the summer. That pdf is provided separately from her powerpoint.

Barbara Gill—Music Mapping for Memory. Understanding form is essential for memory and the artistic development of a musician. Inspired by Professor Susan Kenney, retired BYU Music Education Specialist, Barbara teaches her students to “map” their pieces visually. Using shapes, letters, colors, and other symbolic representations of what is happening in the music ties a visual gestures to the auditory experience. Be sure to look at her photos for examples.