

# DENVER WALKER

## TEACHING STATEMENT

As a teacher, I aim to cultivate a positive, playful and engaging environment where students feel at ease taking risks and learning. Drawing from my own experiences, I seek to find ways to connect with the students' own relationship to music and nurture the natural joy music brings them. This thread of connection engages students and builds their confidence to attempt new musical tasks. I balance creative uses of technology and games with traditional methods of music education to provide diverse touchstones that resonate with students.

In the classroom, I encourage a positive and engaging learning environment by having participation-based lessons. I require students to sing, clap, dance and perform in each class. Many of these tasks I incorporate into games, encouraging the playful atmosphere my classes thrive in. This provides me with an opportunity to give immediate assessment and encouraging feedback, developing confidence in the students to take more learning risks. I am able to discern individual student's interest by creating lessons with a diverse range of styles, genres, and cultural backgrounds. By having this diversity in my lessons, students are able to engage with whichever style they prefer, developing their own interest and musical identity.