



Winter 2017

Towards a More Inclusive Music Education: Experiences of LGBTQQIAA Students in Music Teacher Education Programs Across Pennsylvania

Edward J. Holmes
Gettysburg College

Brent C. Talbot
Gettysburg College

Roles

Student Author:

Edward J. Holmes '18, Gettysburg College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/consfacpub>

 Part of the [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Commons](#), [Music Education Commons](#), and the [Teacher Education and Professional Development Commons](#)

Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.

Holmes, E. J. & Talbot, B. C. (2017). Towards a more inclusive music education: Experiences of LGBTQQIAA students in music teacher education programs across Pennsylvania. *PMEA News*, 82(2), 60-63.

This is the publisher's version of the work. This publication appears in Gettysburg College's institutional repository by permission of the copyright owner for personal use, not for redistribution. Cupola permanent link: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/consfacpub/17>

This open access article is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact cupola@gettysburg.edu.

Towards a More Inclusive Music Education: Experiences of LGBTQQIAA Students in Music Teacher Education Programs Across Pennsylvania

Abstract

During the past decade, the field of music education has seen an increase in the amount of scholarship surrounding LGBTQ studies in music teaching and learning. For example, the University of Illinois hosted three symposia for the field of music education dedicated to LGBTQ studies (2010, 2012, 2016), and proceedings from these symposia were published in three separate issues of the of the Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education (2011, 2014, 2016). Other notable scholarship has been published in Action, Criticism, and Theory for Music Education (Gould 2005); the Music Educators Journal (Bergonzi, 2009; Carter, 2011; McBride, 2016); the Journal of Research in Music Education (Carter, 2013; Nicholas, 2013); and UPDATE: Applications of Research in Music Education (Garrett, 2012). (*excerpt*)

Keywords

LGBTQ, LGBTQQIAA, Music Education, Teacher Education, Pennsylvania

Disciplines

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies | Music Education | Teacher Education and Professional Development

A New Movement
is Brewing p. 36

Get the Most Out of Your Student
Teaching Experience p.46

Towards a More Inclusive
Music Education p.60

PMEA SINCE 1933 *News* WINTER 2017

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

2018 PMEA ANNUAL IN-SERVICE CONFERENCE

PREVIEW P. 13



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Slate Group

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association
56 S. Third Street
Hamburg, PA 19526

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Companies:

Arts Laureate	49
Brighton Music Center	39
Choice Music Tours	9
EPN Travel Services	Back Inside Cover
Festivals of Music	Back Cover, 50
Fiesta-val	45
Jazz Composer Rick Hirsch	63
Lehigh Valley Digital Music Press	53
Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association	51
Philadelphia Sinfonia Association	71
Progressive Music	70
Valley Forge Chorus	71
Yamaha Corporation of America	65
Zeswitz	49

Colleges/Universities:

Baldwin Wallace University	48, 71
Bloomsburg University	40
Bucknell University Dept. of Music	57
Duquesne University	9
Elizabethtown College	49
Grove City College	73
Indiana University of PA	11
Ithaca College	3
Kutztown University	Front Inside Cover
Lebanon Valley College	25, 75
Mansfield University	56
Mercyhurst University	69
Moravian College	44
Penn State School of Music	12
Seton Hill University	5
Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College	7
Temple University	35
West Chester University	37
Westminster College	41, 67
Wilkes University	34

PMEA News Editorial Committee Chair:
Douglas R. Bolasky
PMEA Executive Director: Abigail Young
PMEA Executive Office
56 S. Third St., Hamburg, PA 19526
Phone: 888-919-PMEA Fax: 610-562-9760
e-mail: pmeanews@pmea.net

Change of Address: Mail old and new address to the PMEA Executive Office. Include both ZIP numbers. Postmaster: Send address changes to PMEA News, PMEA Executive Office, 56 S. Third St., Hamburg, PA 19526. The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association is a federated state association of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and part of the Eastern Division of NAfME. It maintains a cooperative relationship with organizations and agencies working for the improvement of education. PMEA News, (ISSN 0030-8102), the official journal of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, is issued to members as a cost included in dues. It is published four times during the school year. Subscription rate to libraries: \$20 per year.

U.S. postage paid at Lubbock, Texas. Inquiries regarding advertising rates, closing dates and the publication of original articles should be sent to the PMEA Executive Office.

© 2017 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part of any article or item without permission of the editor is prohibited.

WINTER 2017

Volume 82, Number 2

CONTENTS

PMEA BUSINESS Officer Articles	
From the President	2
Professional Development	4
REVIEWS	
Band Reviews	6
Jazz Reviews	10
FEATURES	
2018 PMEA Annual Conference Preview	13
2018 PMEA Annual Conference Schedule	14
2018 PMEA Annual Conference Performing Groups	26
2018 PMEA Annual Conference Registration Form	30
2018 PMEA Annual Conference Guest Conductors	31
A New Movement is Brewing	36
Editorial: From the Driver's Seat	38
RESOURCES	
Forgotten Friends: Part I	42
SOUND ADVICE	
Get the Most Out of Your Student Teaching Experience	46
Time to Refresh	51
High School Orchestra Rep Ideas: Challenging String Orchestra	
Pieces between "Holberg Suite" and "Adagio for Strings"	52
Beginning Timpani Methods	54
Talking About Teaching	58
Towards a More Inclusive Music Education	60
What To Do With My PCMEA Chapter	64
Sailing Through a Proverbial Sea of Self-Help Books on Retirement	66
GET INVOLVED	
Attention New (Or Newly Assigned) Teachers!!! PMEA Has Your Back!	69
AROUND THE STATE News and Announcements	
2018 PMEA Composition Program Reminder	70
Heard Through the (Vintage) Grapevine	72
Corporate Sponsors	74
PMEA Officer Directory	76



EDWARD J. HOLMES
Gettysburg College



BRENT C. TALBOT
Gettysburg College

Towards a More Inclusive Music Education:

Experiences of LGBTQQIAA Students in Music Teacher Education Programs Across Pennsylvania

2016); the *Journal of Research in Music Education* (Carter, 2013; Nichols, 2013); and *UPDATE: Applications of Research in Music Education* (Garrett, 2012). Additionally, a number of book chapters in the *Oxford Handbook on Social Justice in Music Education* (Lamb & Dhokai, 2015; Bergonzi, 2015) and in *Marginalized Voices in Music Education* (Talbot, 2018; Bartolome & Sanford, 2018; Taylor, 2018) have been dedicated to LGBTQ studies in music education.

During the 2015-2016 academic year Gettysburg College, like many institutions of higher education, requested that all members of their campus complete a climate survey dedicated to examining diversity, equity, and inclusion at our institution. After completing this climate survey, we (the authors) were left with further questions about the climate and experiences for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, and allied (LGBTQQIAA) students in music teacher education programs on our campus and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Drawing upon this survey, we sought to answer the following questions: (1) What particular socio-cultural, environmental, and/or curricular practices lend themselves to LGBTQQIAA inclusion and safety among students, faculty, and staff? (2) In what ways do students, faculty, and staff who identify as LGBTQQIAA actively create and foster inclusive and supportive environments for music learning?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

We drew upon Kevin K. Kumashiro's theory of anti-oppressive education as outlined in his work *Toward a Theory of Anti-Oppressive Education* (2000) to create our own climate survey and subsequent interview questions. Kumashiro's theory centers on four different approaches to educating: (1) education for the other, (2) education about the other, (3) education that is critical and privileging of othering, and (4) education that changes students and society. Kumashiro defines other as referring "to those groups that are traditionally marginalized in society, i.e., that are other than the norm, such as students of color, students from under- or unemployed families, students who are female, or male but not stereotypically 'masculine,' and students who are, or are perceived to be, queer." (Kumashiro, 2000, p. 26).

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The LGBTQQIAA Climate Survey for Music Teacher Education Programs in Pennsylvania was distributed to pre-service music teachers in Pennsylvania through the PCMEA Facebook Page and through coordinators and professors of music education programs. The survey instrument consisted of 43 questions in five sections. Participants were invited to provide demographic information, such as gender expression, sexual orientation, and size of school; they were asked to respond to a number of agreement statements on a 1-5 Likert scale (5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=neutral, 2=disagree, 1=strongly disagree); and

During the past decade, the field of music education has seen an increase in the amount of scholarship surrounding LGBTQ studies in music teaching and learning. For example, the University of Illinois hosted three symposia for the field of music education dedicated to LGBTQ studies (2010, 2012, 2016), and proceedings from these symposia were published in three separate issues of the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education* (2011, 2014, 2016). Other notable scholarship has been published in *Action, Criticism and Theory for Music Education* (Gould, 2005); the *Music Educators Journal* (Bergonzi, 2009; Carter, 2011; McBride,

they were invited to further expand on their experiences through open-response boxes at the end of each section. The survey closed with an invitation for participants to provide contact information if they wished to participate in a follow up interview.

To learn about the climate for LGBTQQIAA pre-service music teachers in higher education, we asked participants if they knew any faculty or staff members associated with their music education programs who identify as LGBTQQIAA. We also asked participants to respond to a number of questions regarding their perceptions of the impact these faculty and staff members have had on the climate of their program. Additionally, we provided participants the option to further elaborate on their experiences with faculty and staff.

In another section, we asked participants to indicate their level of comfort in expressing their sexual orientation or gender expression towards various groups (students, faculty, staff, and administration) on campus, and whether they felt their institution provided adequate resources for LGBTQQIAA students. We also asked participants whether they felt the students, the faculty and staff, and the administration, respectively were accepting of LGBTQQIAA individuals at their institution.

Lastly, we asked participants whether they felt prepared to be a resource for LGBTQQIAA students in their future careers; whether they felt their professors made a conscious effort to discuss or avoid topics of gender and sexuality in their curricula; and to indicate the types of LGBTQQIAA inclusive practices they had experienced in their music education program.

SURVEY RESULTS

Of the 73 participants who took the survey, 7 identified as non-binary in their gender expression and 38 identified as LGBTQQIA (removing the last A for allies, who typically identify as heterosexual). Of the 38 students who identified as non-heterosexual, most indicated (55%) that they were out to fellow

students at the school; however, some students (38%) indicated that they were not out to their music education, music, and non-music faculty and staff.

75% of participants agreed that their “institution has adequate resources for LGBTQQIAA students.” 67.7% of participants felt “comfortable expressing their gender and sexuality to students in their music education program” and 60.6% felt “comfortable expressing their gender and sexuality to faculty in music education.” 87.7% said they “could identify faculty or staff who were LGBTQQIAA,” while 12.3% said they “could not identify faculty or staff who

While 44.4% of students agreed that professors brought up topics of gender and sexuality when it was relevant to the curriculum, only 16.9% thought their “professors made a conscious effort to include these topics.” When asked if their professors avoided these topics, 16.7% agreed or strongly agreed that their professors “did not make a conscious effort to include these topics.”

When asked if students “felt prepared to be a resource to students who have questions about gender expression or sexual orientation,” 31% agreed or strongly agreed, 29.6% felt neutral, and 39.4% disagreed or strongly disagreed. However,

There is always diversity in a group, and that one story, lesson, or voice can never be representative of all.

were LGBTQQIAA.” Relationships with these faculty and staff varied, with 47.8% of participants responding that they could “identify a music education course instructor who publicly identified as LGBTQQIAA.”

Most respondents felt that faculty or staff work to foster an inclusive environment for LGBTQQIAA students across campus and in their music education program. However, the open responses to this question provided a variety of answers, ranging from one respondent who said, “I have not seen any professors contributing to the creation of any kind of safe space for such students,” to another who said, “My advisor/music education professor has encouraged LGBTQQIAA discussions in class, and has offered for us to come and continue the conversation if we feel so inclined. It’s cool to see him so involved.”

61.9% agreed or strongly agreed that they were “prepared to create socially conscious programming in their future music classrooms.”

INTERVIEW RESULTS

Of the 35 students who disclosed their email, five were chosen based on the size of their institution, whether or not the institution was private or public, and whether or not the respondent identified as LGBTQQIA. Interviewees answered questions that included topics such as inclusive practices and mentoring. In addition to responding to the interview questions, participants spoke about their experiences in and perceptions of their programs and at their institutions. Respondents spoke in further detail about the climate for LGBTQQIAA students on their campus, their preparedness to enter their careers, and suggestions for how to improve inclusion in

their music education programs. The following are some of the themes that emerged from the interviews.

CLIMATE

Many of the respondents talked about the approachability of faculty and staff members. One respondent used the term red flags to indicate identity markers that make them uncomfortable in expressing themselves in front of others. Some of these red flags include whether the faculty or staff member is older, professors' openness about their reli-

gious life, what part of the country the professor is from (northern or southern states), and their political affiliation. training included summer jobs, extracurricular reading and research on the subject, and inclusive training programs provided by their institution. Additionally, many felt that their experience as an LGBTQQIAA student helped them to formulate their teaching philosophy around inclusion and safety for "othered" students. Interviewees who were in the process of student teaching remarked that they felt completely unprepared to handle issues of discrimination or discussion of LGBTQQIAA topics in their placements. These respondents ad-

We believe that music education research can be central to the process of change and is one example of the type of disruptive knowledge for which Kumashiro advocates.

gious life, what part of the country the professor is from (northern or southern states), and their political affiliation.

We specifically asked interviewees if they felt their program discussed LGBTQQIAA topics enough. All five interviews said that the topic did not come up at all or was not brought up nearly enough, and almost all said that they felt their program had not prepared them for the situations they may encounter in their careers, leading them to seek supplemental training and professional development elsewhere.

PREPAREDNESS

All five respondents felt undereducated about how LGBTQQIAA topics relate to music teaching and learning. If they felt any level of preparedness, they indicated it was a result of receiving training from a source outside of their music education program. Examples of this type of

vocated for training for these situations in preparation for student teaching and future careers in schools.

SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPING MORE INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

Finally, we asked interviewees about suggested changes they would make to their music teacher education programs. One respondent suggested that professors should make an effort to "layer" discussion of marginalized groups into every unit in their education classes, and to approach all topics from the lens of students from minority races, students with disabilities, and students who identify as LGBTQQIAA.

FINDINGS

We found a statistically significant relationship ($p < .05$) between students' perception of "the inclusiveness of their programs" and whether or not the faculty at their institutions are "open

about LGBTQQIAA topics." This led us to conclude that when students perceive their faculty as being open about LGBTQQIAA topics they are likely to also perceive their music education program as being inclusive.

We also found statistically significant relationships between ($p < .01$) students who were comfortable expressing their gender "on campus" and in their "music education program" and students who were comfortable expressing their sexual orientation "on campus" and in their "music education program." We also collapsed the variables "on campus" and "in their music education program" and found a statistically significant relationship ($p < .01$) between those variables in regard to gender expression and sexual orientation, indicating that students who are comfortable expressing their gender on campus and in their music education program are also comfortable expressing their sexual orientation on campus and in their music education program. The same was true for students who did not feel comfortable expressing their gender or sexuality on campus and in their music education program.

When professors are perceived as being more open about their support for LGBTQQIAA topics and educate their students about LGBTQQIAA topics, all students benefit in becoming more prepared for their careers and LGBTQQIAA students are made more comfortable in expressing their gender and sexual orientation.

IMPLICATIONS FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

Faculty who work with pre-service music teachers in any capacity need to take time to discuss responding to situations of discrimination and bigotry in the classroom. As a result, pre-service teachers may feel more prepared to act as role models for their own students in their careers. In addition, faculty and staff in higher education who support the LGBTQQIAA community need to be vocal about their support. Simple actions like having a "Safe Space" sticker or including a short note about one's support and accessibility in class syl-

labi help students perceive their professors as resources on these topics.

Even with the inclusion of LGBTQIAA topics in college and university classrooms, students may still have a stigmatized experience and perceive the inclusive climate as too radical. When pre-service music teachers critically reflect and examine their educational histories, they become more self-aware and enabled to see the constraints that exist on music teaching and learning. Such awareness is vital if music teachers are to courageously break free from those constraints, and through dialogue with students, construct a flexible and relevant music curriculum. Teachers need to take on the role of “messmates at a table,” dialectically co-constructing our understandings and in turn, our philosophies as teachers and equals (Talbot & Reynolds, 2016).

Changing oppression, as Kumashiro (2000) indicates:

[R]equires disruptive knowledge, not simply more knowledge. [Students, teachers, and researchers] need to learn that what is being learned can never tell the whole story, that there is always more to be sought out, and in particular, that there is always diversity in a group, and that one story, lesson, or voice can never be representative of all ... the goal is not final knowledge (and satisfaction), but disruption, dissatisfaction and the desire for more change [and further understanding]. (p. 34)

We believe that music education research can be central to the process of change and is one example of the type of disruptive knowledge for which Kumashiro advocates. Engaging with this type of research in our music teacher education program has helped us create a more inclusive teaching and learning space. It is our goal, as we continue to explore our own practices and positionalities, to elevate the voices of those who may be experiencing oppression in/through the field of music education and to enact the positive change we wish to see in our field. ▀

REFERENCES

- Bartolome, S. & Stanford, M. (2018). “Can’t I sing with the girls?”: A transgender music educator’s journey. In B. C. Talbot (Ed.), *Marginalized voices in music education* (pp. 114-136). New York: Routledge.
- Bergonzi, L. (2009). Sexual orientation and music education: Continuing a tradition. *Music Educators Journal*, 96(2), 21–25.
- Bergonzi, L. (2015). Gender and sexual diversity challenges (for socially just) music education. In C. Benedict, P. Schmidt, G. Spruce, & P. Woodford (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of social justice in music education* (pp. 221-237). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Carter, B. A. (2011). A safe education for all. *Music Educators Journal*, 97(4), 29-32.
- Carter, B. A. (2013). “Nothing better or worse than being black, gay, and in the band.” A qualitative examination of gay undergraduates participating in Historically Black Colleges or University marching bands. *Journal of Research in Music Education*, 61, 26–43.
- Garrett, M. (2012). The LGBTQ component of 21st-century music teacher training: Strategies for inclusion from the research literature. *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, 31(1), pp. 55 - 62.
- Gould, E. (2005). Desperately seeking Marsha: Music and lesbian imagination. *Action, Criticism and Theory for Music Education*, 4(3).
- Kumashiro, K. K. (2000). Toward a theory of anti-oppressive education. *Review of Educational Research*, 70(1), 25–53.
- Lamb, R. & Dhokai, N. (2015). Disjunctured feminisms: Emerging feminisms in music education. In C. Benedict, P. Schmidt, G. Spruce, & P. Woodford (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of social justice in music education* (pp. 122-139). New York: Oxford University Press.
- McBride, N. R. (2016). Singing, sissies, and sexual identity. *Music Educators Journal*, 102(4), 36-40.
- Nichols, J. (2013). Rie’s story, Ryan’s journey: Music in the life of a transgender student. *Journal of Research in Music Education*, 61, 262–279.
- Talbot, B. C. & Reynolds, A. M. (2016). Extending invitations, becoming messmates. *PMEA News*, 181(1), 26-29.
- Talbot, B. C. (2018). Introduction. In B. C. Talbot (Ed.), *Marginalized voices in music education* (pp. 1-12). New York: Routledge.
- Taylor, D. (2018). Zeke’s story: Intersections of faith, vocation, and LGBTQ identity in the South. In B. C. Talbot (Ed.), *Marginalized voices in music education* (pp. 153-175). New York: Routledge.

RICK HIRSCH

JAZZ COMPOSER & EDUCATOR

“Great writing and blazing alto playing.”
- BOB MINTZER

“My kids always love playing your charts.”
- PME A PAST-PRES. SCOTT SHEEHAN

“You do such incredible work (with students).”
- GREAT PLAINS JAZZ FESTIVAL HOST



New
CD

COMMISSIONS
· Jazz Band
· Concert Band
· Marching Band
· Orchestra
· HS, MS, EL

PUBLISHED BY
· Alfred
· FJH (coming 2018)
· UNC Jazz Press
· HirschMusic

www.RICKHIRSCHJAZZ.com | State College, PA

