The Changing Field of Music Education: Advice for Teaching Private Lessons to K-12 Students

Moderator: Wendy K. Matthews, Assistant Professor of Music Education

With Panel Members:
Dr. Abigail Butler (Vocal Music Education), Mr. Russ Miller (Jazz Studies), Dr. Laura Roelofs (Strings), and Mr. Matthew Younglove (Director of Athletic Bands and Applied Saxophone)

Research in one-on-one private music lesson settings has concluded that children who attain music proficiency regard their teacher’s personal qualities and expertise as playing a considerable role in helping them acquire their musical skill (Howe & Sloboda, 1991). Additionally, the ability to motivate students is an important characteristic of a successful private teacher. Children who are the most motivated to participate in music lessons usually have the highest expectations of themselves. (Pitts, Davidson, and McPherson, 2000). This Brown Bag lecture presented by a panel of Wayne State University music professors will discuss advice and current trends in private lesson teaching. Topics will include resources for the private teacher, instructional design, learning styles, motivational strategies, and the business side of teaching. This brown bag will be of interest to those considering and currently teaching in the private lesson setting as well as parents of young musicians.