

2021 NYSSMA Winter Conference  
Rochester, New York  
Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 - Saturday, December 4th, 2021  
Brian J. Wagner-Yeung - Music for Special Learners Chairperson

Announcement of Sessions

**The Neurodiverse Music Classroom: Using Strengths of All Students in  
Various Learning Environments**

**Thursday, December 2nd at 7:00 PM in Convention Center Highland CH**

**Presenter: Brian J. Wagner-Yeung**

Neurodiversity focuses on incorporating strength-based learning in the classroom and celebrating brain diversity. This session will focus on creating a neurodiverse classroom by incorporating positive niche construction. Examples include strength awareness, universal design for learning, and creating environmental modifications. This session will cover elementary/secondary, in addition to classroom music/performance ensembles.

**Teaching the Visually Impaired: A Benefit to All**

**Friday, December 3rd at 9:30 AM in Convention Center Cascade ABC**

**Presenter: Peter Leo**

This session explores best practices for teaching music to students with visual impairment. These methods for making music accessible, based on Universal Design for Learning, will not only benefit visually-impaired students but will also result in improved education for all students in the class.

**Universal Design for Learning: A Framework for Inclusive Music Teaching**

**Friday, December 3rd at 10:45 AM in Convention Center Cascade ABC**

**Presenter: Jason D. Jones**

The Universal Design for Learning framework is a guideline for teachers to instruct students with and without disabilities. This session will provide an overview of the framework and how to incorporate it immediately into the classroom. Participants will leave this session with concrete plans to take back to their classrooms.

**Making Musical Connections: String Orchestra for All Students**

**Saturday, December 4th at 9:30 AM in Hyatt Regency Ballroom C**

**Presenter: Brian J. Wagner-Yeung**

All students should have the opportunity to participate in a string orchestra. Nevertheless, special adaptations/modifications are needed to provide a structured and meaningful experience for students with special needs. In this session, you will see basic accommodations, adaptations to literacy, and how language development/social skills can be enhanced through music-making.

Professional development credit will be given for attendance in each conference session. Please see the chairperson after the session to sign any timesheet.

Contact Brian J. Wagner-Yeung (NYSSMA Music for Special Learners Chair) at [brianwagneryeung@gmail.com](mailto:brianwagneryeung@gmail.com) for handouts from previous NYSSMA conferences, articles, additional websites, and resources.