

Jessica Piso, DMA

Teaching Philosophy

It is my pleasure as an educator to provide my students with the tools they need to succeed and help them to realize their potential as musicians. In addition to providing a thorough education in flute and musical skills, I am dedicated to helping students explore their passions and interests. My goal as a teacher is to help encourage and foster opportunities for these passions to flourish. Within my flute studio, creating a positive, collaborative, and constructive learning environment is vital to student success. I foster personal relationships with my pupils and encourage collaboration within the studio to build friendships as well as professional connections. As a young musician, I was exposed to the Suzuki method and developed a love for performance. As a teacher, it is my belief that students can learn to become more comfortable with live performance and grow to enjoy the experience. My priorities as a flute studio teacher include exposing my students to thorough musical curriculum, nurturing their personal and professional skills to succeed in their life and career, help navigate students in finding their individual interests, create opportunities for students to engage with their skills and interests, build an uplifting learning environment and student network of friends and colleagues, and assist each member of the studio in finding the benefit of performance.

In order to provide my students with a well-rounded foundation in flute playing, I work with students to select repertoire that is suited to their needs. Students will work through etudes, long tone exercises, low and top register studies, and all forms of scales to develop their technique. Students have quite a bit of freedom to explore and work with their teacher to choose solo repertoire that interests and excites them as players. They will have the opportunity to play repertoire from throughout the musical ages, including works by J.S. Bach, Mozart, Chaminade, Poulenc, and more. I also support students' growth and learning of repertoire from chamber and large ensemble pieces within lessons. I appreciate that participation in these ensembles bolsters and reinforces all the effort expended on flute repertoire and technical exercises.

I help the students in my studio develop as musicians and as professionals utilizing the musical skills they learn. It is my priority to assist students in developing their passions in music. We have discussions about what they are interested in and I provide opportunities for them to exercise different musical muscles. I genuinely want to help my flutists develop into the wonderful, competent professionals I know they can be. My students can conduct the flute choir, conduct research and write academically about topics that interest them, or lead and participate in outreach to schools, retirement homes, and community events to perform or teach. There are organizational and administrative work opportunities to assist in coordinating performances within the studio. Finally, there are teaching opportunities for students within the practice buddy system when students attend private lessons together and practice jointly to learn from one another. Students with degrees in flute performance, music education, music therapy, and students with a music minor can all find value and a way to grow from their time in the flute studio as a result of these experiences.

One of my priorities is to create a constructive, positive flute studio environment within private lessons, flute choir, and chamber music. Students are more comfortable to learn, develop, and cultivate professional relationships in a friendly and collaborative environment. One method of achieving this goal is by forming small chamber groups in addition to the studio time and flute choir experience. Chamber music is an engaging musical experience that can provide a more relaxed atmosphere to enjoy music making. These groups allow students to spend time working

together and improve their musical skills as well as forming a connected, positive studio. Playing in groups is a fun way to hold students accountable for their work, friendships provide motivation for improvement, and the experience increases students' musical maturity through observing others. In a connected and positive studio my students are able to learn comfortably.

My love of performance is something I strive to pass on to my students. After performing regularly as a young musician in a youth symphony and Suzuki group, I was able to move past the fear of playing live for an audience. However, I know many musicians come to college with performance anxiety. My goal for my students who struggle with this is to work through that apprehension and learn to enjoy the experience. The only way to improve a skill is to work on it, so I ease those flutists into the experience through group performances with the flute choir or chamber music instead of solo performances. It is much easier to play with a group of friends than alone if performing creates anxiety. The flute studio is supportive of all its members and performing together is an exciting experience. After those students become more comfortable with performing, we move at their speed to include more diverse performance experiences. Students who already possess an interest or love of performing can enjoy their opportunities to play as well as serve as role models and emotional support for peers working on becoming comfortable. Regardless of major, each student can benefit from the skills they learn in performance. By the time my students graduate, they will have developed a love and respect for performance through flute choir, chamber, and solo opportunities that carries through to other areas of their life through the confidence they develop.

I care deeply about each person that walks into my studio and will do my utmost to encourage and foster their development. I meet students from their starting point and work together to build a plan that helps them meet my goals and the university expectations. Additionally, I listen to their ideas and help guide the students in creating and reaching their own goals. It is my aim to provide all of my students with the information, support, and practical opportunities they need to succeed by the conclusion of their degree and beyond.