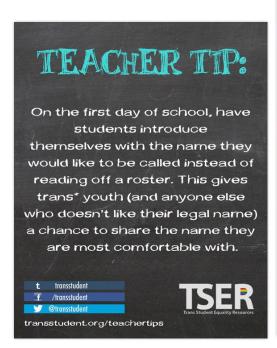
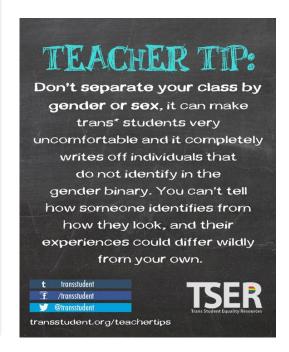
# **Teaching Transgender Students: What every music educator should know**

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#### Introduction

- Music teachers should be advocates and allies for our transgender and non-binary students.
- We need to make the applied music studio, music classes, and rehearsal rooms safe spaces.
- The purpose of this presentation will be to give a general introduction to the special considerations that music teachers should know to provide an inclusive atmosphere for transgender or non-binary students.
- The goals will include developing or refining a basic vocabulary of terminology specific to this population and helping to create an awareness and sensitivity for the needs of those students who are in transition.
- Successful work with these students depends on this knowledge and the desire to create a gender neutral environment for learning.

The Gender Unicorn http://www.transstudent.org/

## **Terminology and Useful Info**

- Cisgender means that the gender assigned at birth is in agreement with an individual's gender identity. Transgender means that there is a disagreement. Trans is an umbrella term.
- Non-binary, Genderfluid, or Genderqueer means that the individual may feel like one gender one day and the other gender on another day, or may feel like both genders or neither.
- Transgender is an adjective, so using the term "transgendered" is not correct.
- A transgender man (FtM, F2M, AFAB or trans masculine) may prefer to use the pronouns he/him/his and a transgender woman (MtF, M2F, AMAB, or trans feminine) may prefer to use the pronouns she/her/hers.

- Some non-binary people do not identify with either gender designation and may say that they are gender fluid and prefer the pronouns they/them/their or other created pronouns.
- Pronouns matter. Ask if you are uncertain and strive to use the correct pronoun. If a singer chooses a name not given them at birth, it is a sign of respect to use that name.

#### As a Music Educator -

- The most important thing for you as a teacher is to be an ally. You must be open-minded enough to treat these students with respect and try and support them however possible.
- Be aware of how your trans students are being treated by others in your rehearsal or classes.
- Use every possible awkward question or situation as a teachable moment about respecting everyone, even those different from you.
- You are not there to moralize or criticize. Your job as a teacher is to provide a supportive safe space for your transgender and non-binary students just as you do for your cisgender students.
- Consider allowing gender neutral attire for concerts and recitals, or allowing students to present as the gender of their choice.
- Know where the gender neutral restrooms are located.

#### **Selected Resources**

- Richard K. Adler, Sandy Hirsch, and Michelle Mordaunt. Voice and Communication Therapy for the Transgender/Transsexual Client: A Comprehensive Clinical Guide. Plural Publishing, 2012.
- Liz Jackson Hearns and Brian Kremer. The Singing Teacher's Guide to Transgender Voices. Plural Publishing, 2018.
- Brian Manternach, Michael Chipman, Ruth Rainero, and Caitlin Stave. Teaching Transgender Singers. Part I: The Voice Teachers' Perspectives. Journal of Singing, September/October 2017, Volume 74, No. 1, pp. 83–88.
- Brian Manternach. Teaching Transgender Singers. Part II: The Singers' Perspectives. Journal of Singing, November/December 2017Volume 74, No. 2, pp. 209–214.
- Josh Palkki. https://acda.org/files/choral\_journals/PalkkiJu-Ju17.pdf and http://www.queeringchoir.com/
- Loraine Sims. Teaching the Transgender Students. Journal of Singing, January/February 2017 Volume 73, No. 3, pp. 279–282.
- Loraine Sims. Teaching Lucas: A Transgender Singer's Vocal Journey from Soprano to Tenor. Journal of Singing, March/April 2017 Volume 73, No. 4, pp. 367–375.
- Loraine Sims. What the FACH? Voice Dysphoria and the Trans or Non-Binary Singer. VOICE Prints Journal of the New York Singing Teachers' Association, Volume 15, Number 5 May--June 2018.
- Helpful weblinks
  - o <a href="http://www.transstudent.org/">http://www.transstudent.org/</a>
  - o <a href="https://www.glsen.org/safespace">https://www.glsen.org/safespace</a>
  - o https://keyoft.com/

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