

**Pedagogy Saturday 2016: Exploring How We Learn Music
Learning & Making Music Throughout Adulthood
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The single most important factor influencing [adult] learning is what the learner already knows.
Ascertain this and teach him accordingly. ~David Ausbel

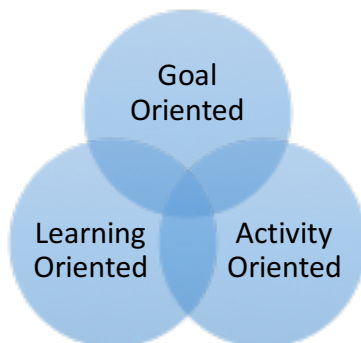
Adults May Be:

- Self-Directed
- Motivated
- Results Oriented
- Susceptible to Unrealistic Expectations
- Resistant to Change
- Slower to Learn...More Apt to Integrate
- Availing of Past Experience
- Distracted by Life Responsibilities

Traits of Effective Teachers of Adults:

- Expertise
- Empathy
- Enthusiasm
- Clarity
- Expectancy

They May Be Some Combination Of:



Partnership with the Adult to Facilitate Learning:



Lifespan Development:

- Stage of Life

Cognitive Changes with Age:

- Slowing of processing in general
- Slowing when multiple processing involved
- Retrieval from long-term memory impaired if not rehearsed regularly
- Stress, lack of sleep, distraction, lack of concentration, out of routine affect those over 60

Physical Changes with Age – Declines in:

- Hearing (this can also affect processing of spoken words or music)
- Visual
- Memory
- Gross & Fine Motor Skills

But, Plasticity Is Possible!

Musical Accommodations for Aging Declines:

- **Visual**
 - Larger Scores
 - Prominent Dynamic Markings
 - Pens, Highlighters & Colored Markers (Not Pencils)
 - Less Clutter on Page
- **Auditory**
 - Reduce Background Noise
 - No Playing While Talking
 - Speak Clearly, Strongly & Enunciate (Look at Learner While Speaking)
 - Give Time Between Statements for Student to Process
 - Have Student “Reinterpret” for You
- **Processing & Cognition**
 - Break Down Tasks (Smaller Chunks) & Create Appropriate Drills
 - Give Ample Time for Rehearsing (Develop Automaticity)
 - Record & Listen (Less Cognitive Overload)
 - Slower Tempi

Consider the Place of the Following Elements in your Curriculum:

- Arrangements
- Transcriptions
- Style/Genre of Music
- Tempo
- Theory
- Technique

For Adult Students:

- A **teacher** is best when we hardly know he exists.
When his work is done, his aim fulfilled,
his students will say, ‘we did this ourselves!’
~ adapted from Lao Tzu

~~Additional Notes~~