

COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVE: A Model for Piano Instructors

Jenna Klein, Jordan Walker, and Rebecca Nickles, University of Northern Iowa
MTNA National Conference, Orlando, Florida, March 19, 2018

“Music is a world within itself, it's a language we all understand”

Our Project

To share the gift of music and music study by providing free piano lessons to three beginner-level Burmese children aged six, eight, and nine as a community outreach initiative in partnership with EMBARC Iowa.

Benefits of Beginning this Community Outreach Initiative

Students: The opportunity to study piano and develop musical skills that can benefit their musical, academic, and social life.

Teachers: The opportunity to engage in a new teaching opportunity and incorporate positive cross-cultural social interactions into their teaching and studio.

Community: The promotion of stronger cross-cultural bonds and involvement.

Special Considerations

-Determine the location of lessons.

-Initiate communication with a local non-profit organization.

-Contact interested families or individuals affiliated with the non-profit and establish lesson time.

Other Considerations

Lesson Materials: Determine the source of teaching materials; the teacher, student, or donations.

Student Transportation: Consider access to lesson transportation and formulate a make-up lesson policy that cooperates with potentially limited transportation.

Practice Environment: Inquire what (if any) instrument students have access to for practice and consider away from the piano practice strategies for students without access.

Language Barriers: Be prepared for potential language barriers and be clear and concise in verbal or written lessons assignments.

Options for Community Outreach

Although our project focused on private piano lessons, there are several other options to consider in finding an initiative that fits a teachers or groups resources and goals:

- Group and Dyad Lessons
- Immersion Group and Dyad Lessons
- Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles
- Music Skill Classes
- Free Community Performances
- Free Workshops
- Scholarships

Why Not?

Consider your reasons for beginning piano lessons. Why not offer the same opportunity to someone else?

Helpful Links

EMBARC Iowa website: <http://www.embarciowa.org/>

Other community outreach initiative websites:

<http://rhapsodyarts.org/classes/community-outreach-programs/>

<http://www.dpianostudio.com/community>

<https://communityoutreachalliance.com/>

<http://www.mtac.org/programs/miscellaneous/community-outreach/>

University affiliated community outreach initiatives:

<http://www.stringprojects.org/about-string-projects.html>

<http://as.tufts.edu/music/internoutreach/outreach.htm>

<https://outreach.colorado.edu/news/article/piano-for-dreamers>

<https://musicprep.columbusstate.edu/Community.php>