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Resolve and Evolve

Today is November 1 and I’m feeling especially reflective. Maybe it’s the looming election, the change in weather, the endless hours spent on my couch, yet another bummer first date, or that there is no sign that we’ve hit bottom. But you know, the only way things are going to turn for the better is if we activate as a community and make changes. I want to be a part of that movement; that positive change for our students, for our profession, and for ourselves. I’m done feeling hopeless and overwhelmed. And more than anything, I’m done with pretending that we should just wait for COVID-19 to pass and get back to business as usual. **Business as usual is racist, classist, and sexist. We must do better moving forward.**

I am committed to the following concepts this 2021 and I hope you’ll come along with me.

1. I accept ownership of my mistakes. I’ve done harm to students and to colleagues and will probably cause harm again. I’m not perfect and I will continue to make mistakes, especially because I’m trying to move our practice forward into new territory. There is no template.
2. I will push for equity until secondary school music programs are, in fact, equitable. They are not. These are my simple criteria:
 - a. That student body demographics are reflected in every single class/ensemble (i.e., race, class, gender)
 - b. That curriculum is decolonized (Western art music is not centered) and addresses national core arts standards with frequency in every single class and ensemble.
3. I will seek joy, sincerity and community. This is the entire reason I became a

4. I will not be a gatekeeper. My job is to open doors for students and teachers, not to close those doors.
5. I accept that I cannot, and should not, do it alone. None of us can be everything to everyone all the time. Let’s stop trying. It’s time to accept community support and help from colleagues. It’s time to band together, boldly. This isn’t a weakness, but a strength to our teaching. So... out with snobbery and in with joy. Out with gatekeeping and in with access. Out with the “play book” and in with discovery. Out with antiquated and in with exploration. I’m going to keep walking this path with or without you, **but it’d sure be a whole lot cooler if you come along.**

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