

## **Guest Reflections**

### **Dr. Elizabeth Gould**

September 21, 2016

On September 21, 2016, guest speaker Dr. Elizabeth Gould came to speak her theory of "teaching is impossible". She goes on to speak about how "teaching is a notion of engagement with some sort of teaching as a result". This statement I believe is true. The pedagogy approach that she described that it is a personal approach to teaching. She then goes on to speak about progressive education and that education is based off of student and teacher responsibilities. I felt that Dr. Gould was a great introduction to the future guest speakers. I do agree with her approach to teaching as I do feel that teaching does tend to be personal. She described that this could have either positive or negative effects and I do believe this is true.

### **Jacobo Nitzsch**

October 12, 2016

Right off the bat, I could tell that Jacobo was going to be very interesting to listen to based off of his cool accent, hair and vibe. I liked how he first gave a little background knowledge of who he is and what he has done in the past. It gave me a better understanding of who he was as a person and so I was able to more clearly understand what he was talking to us about which was; "how can you be creative in classical music? How can you do music in other ways?" His theory in regards to these questions is Divergent vs. Creative thinking. He uses his teaching style of his jazz, classical, and pop students as an example which was that they start with picking a specific topic and words. He raised the question of "how can I challenge myself" to us. He then started listing off his accomplishments of creating a music school, and a music program in jail. This made me think about what I am going to do after my schooling and how I can challenge myself while I am in school.

### **Betty Anne Younker**

October 19, 2016

Today, we had the Dean of the Faculty of Music come in and speak to us about career paths. I really enjoyed listening to the Dean. I did not realize that the faculty were still so involved in alumni's lives. I found it very interesting that the majority of the faculties success is based off of alumni's experiences while at Western. She explained that when speaking to Western alumni's, the factors that came to surface were critical thinking, the ability to work in groups and the ability to solve problems. She then asked us students what our expectations were when we reach our last year at Western and how we were going to impact the community. This really got me thinking on what I am going to do, and how I am going to do with my degree from Western.

### **Dr. Ruth Wright**

October 24, 2016

This class was so much fun!! Today Dr. Ruth Wright came in to speak to the class about Musical Futures. We first started with doing a warmup with the parachute guy which was a vocal exercise and the introduction of composition without us even knowing. I found this awesome as such a simple and fun task was a complex form of learning. Dr. Wright then went on the talk about the Musical Fund Project which introduced informal learning processes where students listen mimic and play music. I particularly like this type of teaching style as I am a very hands on learner and have found in the past that I learn best by doing the task and learning as I go on. Dr. Wright then made the class use her informal learning process. In my group, we chose the song

“O Sweet Child of Mine” by Guns and Roses, listened, mimicked and performed. I know we all had a lot of fun with this activity. I felt a sense of accomplishment as we went from just knowing each other's names to learning and performing a song in a half an hour.

**Gregg Bereznick**

November 2, 2016

In class we had Gregg Bereznick come in and speak on the topic on “Current Practices in Music Classroom”. He first made us complete an exercise with your elbow partner discussing our high school experience within the music program. Defining specific features, what we liked and disliked. This allowed us to differentiate what were good teaching styles and bad. He then goes on to speak about the influences to classroom pedagogy which included past practices and inventions through legislation and political influences. Then we went through all of the curriculum that music students from grades 9-12 are supposed to learn and it was an eye opener of the curriculum that I had not learned or people in the class had not learned. The majority of us did not learn theory within our music classroom in highschool and on one hand I do understand why we did not learn it or did not learn it in much depth. I feel that many students take music to get an arts credit or because they simply enjoy music as a hobby and music teachers do not want to turn students away from taking music education as theory is not something everyone enjoys.

**Dr. Carris**

November 9, 2016

Throughout this semester, I have been exposed to so many different teaching styles and looking back on my past reflections it is very interesting to see how many teachers have been taught and how they teach. Dr. Carris's teaching style is yet again different than any of the other guest speakers. Dr. Carris had the opportunity to work with Edward Gordon who told him that “you teach the way you were taught”. I feel that this statement is true yet not true. I feel that before you start a full time job of being a teacher that you can be exposed to many different teaching styles just as I have in only my first year in university. It is all what you take and how you apply it. Dr. Carris's teaching style was oral teaching style using patterns, and improvisation through singing as a group and solos. I thought that this teaching style would be useful in a classroom setting as it would keep students engaged and expose them to improvisation. I appreciated Dr. Carris coming in to speak to the class as it gave me another perspective on how to teach improvisation.

**Robert Wood**

November 14, 2016

Today in class, we had Robert Wood come and speak to us about ‘Music Technology in Music Education’. At the the beginning of the presentation, Wood named off 11 music technology competencies. I had only used one of the programs he named off. I really appreciated this lecture as I am not a very “techy” person and so to have reliable programs suggested as useful tools for projects in the future was much appreciated. He then began to discuss composition programs. We as a class were able to break off into groups and use a few composition programs. This process was very fun as I was able to expand my knowledge on the compositional programs and see how they work and how much easier it is rather than writing the score out by hand.

**Patrick Schmidt**

November 23, 2016

We had Patrick Schmidt come into class today and speak to us about 'Listening, Musiking, Creating: Teaching Critical Thinking Skills Orally and Creativity'. This was a fun class to participate in. There were xylophones scattered all of the room. We were told to go and sit beside a xylophone and to listen to a melody that Patrick was playing on the piano. He then asked us to play along with whatever we could come up with on the xylophone. This at first was a little tricky because you had to figure out what key he was playing in. It was also a little difficult because there was so much I thought I could do until i realized the restrictions that the xylophone presented. He then asked us to start again and this time think of a beginning, middle, and end. This allowed us to improvise, and listen to each other. Patrick then played the song "imagine" by John Lennon which had the same melody that he was playing on the piano. He then made us play again and see how we would change our playing and listening. It was cool to see how everyones method changed. I really did appreciate Patrick's style of teaching through the exercise as it allowed me to understand critical thinking skills through oral and creative learning.