

HARMONY OF TRADITION AND INNOVATION: INTEGRATING ETHNIC INSTRUMENTS INTO MODERN MUSIC EDUCATION FOR THE NEW GENERATION IN SCHOOLS

by:

Jianne Angeline P. Garcia

Teacher I of Roosevelt National High School

Music education plays a crucial role in fostering creativity, cultural appreciation, and cognitive development among students. While traditional music education has been effective, there is an opportunity to enrich it further by integrating ethnic instruments into the curriculum. This approach not only preserves cultural heritage but also encourages innovation and creates a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity. By incorporating ethnic instruments into modern music education, schools can offer a more inclusive and diverse learning experience that prepares the new generation for a globalized world.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

1. **Preserving Cultural Heritage:** Integrating ethnic instruments allows schools to preserve and promote the rich musical traditions of different cultures. Traditional music has been passed down through generations, holding profound significance and stories within them. By introducing students to these instruments, they gain an understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, leading to a more inclusive society.
2. **Fostering Creativity and Innovation:** Introducing students to ethnic instruments fosters creativity by exposing them to unique sounds, scales, and musical structures. This exposure encourages students to think outside the box, experiment with new sounds, and create innovative compositions that draw from both traditional and contemporary influences.
3. **Enhancing Musical Skill Development:** Learning to play ethnic instruments enhances students' musical skill development. Many ethnic instruments require

specific techniques and playing styles that differ from conventional instruments, providing a broader range of skills and musicianship. These skills can be transferred to other areas of music and improve overall proficiency.

4. **Emphasizing Collaborative Learning:** Integrating ethnic instruments encourages collaborative learning among students. As they work together to play different instruments, they gain valuable experience in teamwork, communication, and adaptability, essential qualities for success in various aspects of life.
5. **Building Cultural Awareness and Empathy:** Engaging with diverse musical traditions through ethnic instruments fosters cultural awareness and empathy among students. They learn to respect and value different cultural perspectives, promoting mutual understanding and a sense of unity among the student body.
6. **Connecting with Modern Music Trends:** Ethnic instruments can be seamlessly integrated into modern music genres, including pop, rock, and electronic music. By incorporating these instruments, schools can connect with current music trends, making music education more relevant and appealing to students.
7. **Opportunities for Multidisciplinary Learning:** Integrating ethnic instruments into music education opens doors for multidisciplinary learning. Students can explore the cultural, historical, and sociological aspects of the music they are studying, creating a holistic educational experience.

In conclusion the harmony of tradition and innovation in music education can be achieved by integrating ethnic instruments into modern curricula. By doing so, schools provide students with a rich and diverse learning experience, nurturing creativity, cultural appreciation, and a global perspective. Through this approach, the new generation can become not only skilled musicians but also empathetic and culturally aware individuals, ready to contribute positively to our interconnected world. Embracing the wealth of ethnic instruments can truly enrich music education and contribute to a brighter future for the new generation.

References:

Bates, V. C., Shevock, D. J., & Prest, A. (2021). Cultural Diversity, Ecodiversity, and Music Education. *Landscapes: The Arts, Aesthetics, and Education*, 163–174.

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-65617-1_12

Lau, J. (2022). EMBRACING MUSIC DIVERSITY: INTEGRATING PEDAGOGIES FOR CULTURALLY DIVERSE MUSIC EDUCATION INTO THE NSW PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM.

https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/handle/2123/27421/JLau_Embracing%20Music%20Diversity.pdf?sequence=1