

Reading Music: Curated News for Music Educators for Feb. 9, 2011

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/9/2011 4:47:19 PM

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Articles and blog posts from around the web that are part of my daily reading as a music educator.

STORIES IN THIS EBOOK

* ThomasJWestMusic Website Wins Music & Arts Enthusiast Award (Thomas J West)

<http://dlvr.it/GBNDt>

* Meetings with remarkable women

<http://dlvr.it/GB19W>

* College for All or College for Some?

<http://dlvr.it/GB19Y>

* Best Buy Contributes \$1.24 Million

To GRAMMY Foundation In Support Of High ... - Trading Markets (press release)

<http://dlvr.it/GB19V>

* A Reward without a Trophy

<http://2>

Fdlvr.it/GB19N

* Collaborative Reflections on EduCon & Arts Education, Part I (Yoon)

<http://dlvr.it/G8m64>

* Ski the "Black Diamonds!" (Carol Broos)

<http://dlvr.it/G75kg>

* Injured conductor Riccardo Muti to miss Chicago residency

<http://dlvr.it/G6jl3>

* A new approach to music education - The Guardian

<http://dlvr.it/G6jl1>

* ArtsBeat: Ben Heppner Drops Out of the Met's 'Ring'

<http://dlvr.it/G6jl2>

* History for Music Lovers:

Brilliance

<http://dlvr.it/G6bR3>

* Music high flyers to be encouraged to become teachers

<http://dlvr.it/G6YKp>

* Focus on national tests robs children of true learning

<http://dlvr.it/G6LI>

W

* Music Education Pioneer Lowell Mason Honored with Naming of High...

<http://dlvr.it/G6LIS>

* We respond to Darren Henley's review of music education| Arts Council

<http://dlvr.it/G6LIX>

* Student Opinion | How Important Is Arts Education? - NYTimes.com

<http://dlvr.it/G6LIY>

* Music funding protected for the next year

<http://dlvr.it/G6LIT>

* Why <

Sunday Singalong: Happiness Runs

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/13/2011 6:00:48 AM

Yesterday, I introduced you to my [music therapy intern](#), Karen. Today I'm sharing one of the songs she adapted and has been using in her sessions this month. I fell in love with it the first time I heard her sing it, and thought it would make for the perfect "Sunday Singalong" video this Valentine's Day weekend.

Our students really enjoy singing this song and sharing their own happiness-inducing people, things and activities with Karen. For our non-verbal students, Karen asks the teachers and staff to share some things that make those particular students happy — and there are lots of smiles when they do so! It's a nice way to wind down the session and leave on a positive note.

I'm particularly happy today, because I'll be surrounded by music therapists and educators at a [CMTE on Multicultural Music for Music Therapists](#), hosted by the [Old Town School of Folk Music](#) in Chicago and the [Illinois Association for Music Therapy](#). It's an event I've been planning for months now, and to finally experience it is a treat.

What are your favorite "happiness" songs? I'd love to compile a list to share, not to mention have it on hand to pull from when I'm in need of some new tunes. Post yours in the comments!

Remembering How Lucky We Truly Are...

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/10/2011 1:37:56 PM

I spent four hours yesterday at The University of Michigan Center for Vocal Health. For the last 5 years or so I have been having trouble with hoarseness and loss of range due to overuse in the classroom setting. I finally waved the white flag and just decided to have it checked out. I [...]

Reading Music: Curated News for Music Educators, Feb. 12, 2011

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/12/2011 2:26:11 PM

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INTRODUCTION

Articles and blog posts from around the web that are part of my daily reading as a music educator.

STORIES IN THIS EBOOK

* The Neuroscience Of Music | Wired Science | Wired.com

<http://dlvr.it/GQwJC>

* Solving the Creativity Crisis: The "No Right Brain Left Behind" Challenge - Education - GOOD

<http://dlvr.it/GQwJH>

* BBC's Music Matters and Music For Autism (Thomas J West)

<http://dlvr.it/GQGb1>

* Rethinking Education - A Video (Thomas J West)

<http://dlvr.it/GQGb4>

* Rethinking Education: A New Michael Wesch Video

<http://dlvr.it/GQ7bT>

* National Endowment for the Arts Targeted for Elimination | Americans for the Arts Action Fund

<http://dlvr.it/GQ4nz>

* Is syncretic music the future?

<http://dlvr.it/GQ4p0>

* Hybrid Lesson On Chord Inversions Using MixCraft5 & Web-Based Tools (Thomas J West)

<http://dlvr.it/GNG8M>

* What Is A Good Keyboard To Practice On? (Thomas J West)

<http://dlvr.it/GN5yb>

* CSO's Muti gets pacemaker

<http://dlvr.it/GN2bf>

* In Muti's stead, Sakari Oramo scores an impressive CSO debut

<http://dlvr.it/GMnqc>

* Teacher hopes new course will make music education more relevant to students - madison

<http://dlvr.it/GMnqb>

b

* Great Performances - Richard Stoltzman Plays The Copland Clarinet Concerto (Thomas J West)

<http://dlvr.it/GMX1p>

* Leading Notes - A New Online Magazine For Music Education (Thomas J West)

<http://dlvr.it/GLBm2>

* Discussing Gender Bias In Classical Music Programming (Thomas J West)

<http://dlvr.it/GLIrY>

* The strange case of the striking orchestra | Music | guardian.co.uk

<http://dlvr.it/GJ2Th>

Top 75 eCollegeFinder Music and Arts Enthusiast Award

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/10/2011 2:13:33 PM

Education in Music has been nominated and chosen as one of the

Top 75 eCollegeFinder Music and Arts Enthusiasts Award Winners. "The Top 75 Music & Arts Enthusiasts award recognizes the websites that best represent the voice

of music and arts in both culture and education." Congratulations to all who were chosen. The complete list [...]

Airlines versus musicians

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/10/2011 6:00:00 AM

The following info landed in my inbox from the Regional Orchestra Players Association (ROPA). Though this wouldn't help bassists especially, it would at least be a step in the right direction:

Dear ROPA Delegates,
(PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO YOUR ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS)

I just concluded a conference call with Hal Ponder, Director of Government Relations for the AFM. Hal has been working to introduce the most beneficial legislative language to Congress that will allow musicians to take their instruments during air travel as carry on luggage. It is expected that this bill will be introduced

very quickly during this session and

that we must be prepared for a challenge with the new House Leadership. Hal has requested AFM musicians to send stories of the issues they have encountered when they have taken their instruments on the plane as carry-on luggage.

Here is a note from Hal:
"AFM was successful in getting language in last year's Senate FAA (Federal

Aviation Administration) reauthorization bill, S. 1451, which would have

permitted any small instrument to go on board that could fit in the overhead

bin. However, Congress did not pass the bill and it must be re-introduced this year. In order to gain support in Congress for this legislation, we

need to show them that musicians have problems every day with the

airlines.

So the more complaints you can send me, the more effective I can be. Please

forward your complaints to me (hponder@afm.org) and Laura Brigandi

(lbrigandi@afm.org). In order to be relevant, the complaint should be about an occurrence within the last year."

Please take time to contribute your stories to this cause as we believe these efforts could assure that musicians will not be faced with checking their small instruments under the plane in the future.

Sincerely,
Carla Lehmeier-Tatum
ROPA President

The industry's best-kept secret – Glendale News-Press

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/11/2011 6:00:00 AM

Are you familiar with the double bass stylings of Kevin Brandino? If not, watch the following video...
...and read about him in the LA Times:

[The industry's best-kept secret – Glendale News-Press](#)

Hybrid Lesson On Chord Inversions Using MixCraft5 & Web-Based Tools

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/11/2011 8:18:00 PM

Here is an example of a music theory lesson from my Digital Music Composition class. Students in this class meet on-site with my at my school, but log into the class Moodle page to read the assignment, watch screencast walkthroughs, and complete the project using [MixCraft5](#) - all working at their own pace.

The project web page contains a written description of root position and chord inversions for the C major chord as well as showing how inversions make for a more fluid chord progression going through the primary chords in the key of C Major (C, F, and G major chords). I use [Noteflight](#) to write examples of these chords and embed them directly on to the project web page.



After the description and samples of the music theory, the students read the assignment requirements and a basic set of directions, then watch several screencasts that I made using another great web 2.0 tool called [Jing](#) - the screencasts walk them through the project as I create a sample song.

Hybrid learning (using web-based lessons and resources to allow students to work at their own pace) is an effective and versatile way to differentiate instruction between students of varying ability levels, allow students more freedom to be

creative and self-directed, and so much more.

Learning a music theory concept in this manner takes the theory immediately into the realm of application and creates a short piece of authentic music out of it. Students show their understanding of the theory concepts by playing the primary chords into the sequencer while reviewing previously covered material such as the elements of melody writing, using loops, virtual instruments, and effects.

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BBC's Music Matters and Music For Autism

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

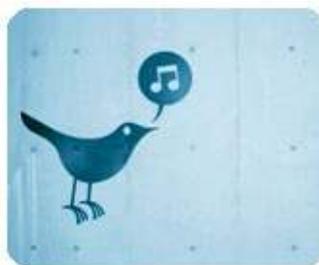
Submitted at 2/12/2011 7:35:00 AM

This morning, I made two discoveries while reading through recent tweets on the #musiced hashtag on Twitter. The first was a BBC Radio 3 program called [Music Matters](#). Music Matters is BBC 3's flagship classical music program, being only one of a large number of [programs they offer](#) on music of all kinds.

The other discovery is a service called [Music for Autism](#). As the parent of a child on the spectrum, I understand only too well how a service such as this could be very

beneficial for many families living with the challenges and joys of having an autistic child.

From their "Our Mission" page: Music for Autism is raising public awareness and enriching lives through autism-friendly, interactive concerts developed specifically for individuals with autism and their families. The concerts, held in the United States and the United Kingdom, feature professional musicians, including Tony Award winners and Grammy-nominated classical artists. To ensure equal access for all, every Music for Autism concert is fully subsidized. Families note that the concerts fill a



major psychosocial void, enabling them to enjoy enriching activities that are inclusive of children with autism.

While their concert locations are as of yet limited primarily to the northeast U.S., an organization such as this can only grow and assist many

people in time to come. Some great features of the site are an interactive flash piano keyboard, social stories designed to assist autistic children with attending a concert, and guides to the concerts for caregivers.

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Leading Notes - A New Online Magazine For Music Education

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/11/2011 7:10:00 AM

Two members of the [Music Professional Learning Network](#) are just days away from launching the first issue of a new online magazine entitled [Leading Notes](#).

From their "About" page: Leading Notes, founded in December 2010, is a new music education magazine that seeks to maintain an online space for discussion about the intersection of philosophy and practice. It attempts to supplement the already well-established music education online community by providing a platform for persons associated with the field to share their thoughts about teaching music in the 21st century. Our hope is that through making this content available, discussions about important topics in music education can be better facilitated. We are interested in keeping an open mind and are open to receiving submissions from students of all ages, current and retired professors, composers, performers, and anyone in between.

Before they go to press for the first time next Tuesday, they are doing some crowdsourcing on Twitter. Follow [@leading_notes](#) and finish the phrase "The state of our profession is..." Or, you can email co-editor Justine Dolorfino at justine@leadingnotes.org to submit your 150 character statement.

Rethinking Education - A Video

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/12/2011 8:22:00 AM

This video, entitled Rethinking Education, came across my PLN today via Brian Wis at [Teaching Music in the 21st Century](#). It is yet another great video showing quite plainly how professional educators need to wake up and start changing the way that they do business.

[Michael Welsh](#) is an associate professor of Cultural Anthropology at the University of Kansas. This video is the latest in a series of videos that take a very pro-active stance, calling educators of all levels, but especially higher education, to do exactly as this video's title suggests, rethink the way that we teach students. You can see his other videos on his [YouTube](#)

[channel](#).

Welsh provided very compelling information on cloud computing and the democratization of information, stating "We [our culture] are only starting to figure out the implications of this." At the end of the video, Welsh makes a statement that resonates well with me. He challenges teachers to "turn your careers just 5 degrees." This sounds very much like [Dr. Joe Pisano's](#) challenge to music educators to "spend just 10 minutes a day doing online professional development."

In the current climate of economic recovery, budget cuts, and political initiative to reform education, the educational professionals themselves need to start doing things differently and show our culture that the mass

media presentation of "teachers are the problem" is unfounded. If we don't begin to change, their profession is going to be changed for us.

If the recent revolution in Egypt has taught us anything, it is that information is power and real change can come in a rapid fashion when people work together with a common goal.

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Great Performances - Richard Stoltzman Plays The Copland Clarinet Concerto

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/11/2011 1:57:00 PM

Clarinet is my primary instrument. As a lover of all kinds of music and all kinds of musical instruments, I can honestly say that every mature musical instrument (meaning one that has been mechanically and acoustically improved over time by scientists and craftsmen) has aspects of its sound and the way it is used in music that I find enjoyable.

The clarinet, besides being an instrument capable of great dexterity

and virtuosity, has a depth of tone quality and breadth of playing range that few instruments can match. While many instruments require vibrato to "warm" the tone for a more expressive presentation, the clarinet can use simply its round, full tone in the lower register and its clarion upper register to great expressive effect.

The Andante movement of Aaron Copland's clarinet concerto is one of my favorite pieces of music and a great example of the expressive capabilities of the instrument.



Richard Stoltzman's performance is flawless and beautiful. This piece, along with the accompanying

movements, were originally premiered by jazz legend Benny Goodman, who was equally at home in the classical realm.

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What Is A Good Keyboard To Practice On?

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/11/2011 6:36:00 PM

This is a guest article written with the help of the Teachstreet Community. TeachStreet is a website dedicated to providing local and online classes, including [Piano Classes](#).

Although keyboards have improved remarkably over the years to match their acoustic counterparts, nothing beats a good old upright or baby grand for developing as far as the weight and feel of the keys. The one big disadvantage, of course, is that acoustics take up a lot of space. You simply can't take them wherever you go, which can make it difficult to stay in practice. The obvious alternative,

of course, are keyboards. The problem is there are so many to choose from and so many of them come attached to price tags a little too steep for non-professionals. Instead of picking a keyboard at random, we decided to turn to the experts at TeachStreet who use our site to promote their classes. Here's what some of them had to say:

Music teacher Ernie Mansfield of [Mansfield Music](#) Said: "If you are just a beginner, you can start out with a 61-note keyboard, but make sure that it is touch-sensitive. If you are an advancing student, invest in at least a 76-note touch sensitive keyboard. You will want to make certain the keyboard has a feel and sound similar to a real piano."

Pianist and Teacher [Megan](#) Said: "Get a keyboard with touch-sensitive keys or what are called weighted keys, and at least one pedal—the damper pedal. Some brands have several choices of damper pedal: OK, Good and Best. Get Best. If a soft pedal is available and you are planning on playing classical music, get it. Get a full sized keyboard unless you envision playing nothing but classic rock and roll. The record function is a great addition. Everything else is up to your taste and budget. Generally, the more you pay, the more realistic the instrument will be. Really high-end digital pianos cost many thousands of dollars but you can do well for under \$1000.00."

Friday Fave: Thesis Theme for WordPress

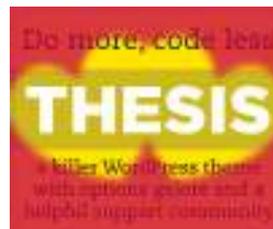
(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/11/2011 6:00:10 AM

When Listen & Learn made the [move from Blogger to WordPress](#) last summer, there was no question as to which theme I was going to use.

Not only did my good friend the [Music Therapy Maven](#) use and recommend the premium theme [Thesis](#), but I saw it pop up all over the blogosphere on a daily basis.

I wanted a theme that I would be able to customize myself to keep Listen & Learn's signature look, not to mention one that would help boost my presence in the search engines. Thesis was a bit of a financial investment at \$87, but it didn't take long before I shelled out the additional \$77 for the Developer's Option Upgrade, which allows me to install [Thesis](#) on any and all of the domains I own.



I'm in love with my theme, which is why I saved this "Friday Fave" for



Great Performances - Paul Nowell Covers Mike Posner's Please Don't Go

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/13/2011 11:54:00 AM

Today, a friend of mine shared this video on Facebook. I have had a few exchanges with [Paul Nowell](#) on Twitter ([@jazztrombonist](#)) before seeing this performance. Paul shows that sometimes pop music such as this has some hidden depth to it that can be coaxed out of it with the proper adaptations. I'm a big fan of musicians who cover a piece of popular music and reinvent it. When done well, reinventions bring out nuances in the original song that sometimes enhance its effectiveness. For a comparison of Paul's arrangement to the original, [click here](#).

At the end of the video, Paul gives us a funny little invitation to subscribe to his YouTube channels. You might just take him up on it.

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Valentine's Day week. From the many font options, to its search engine optimization capabilities, to the sheer ease of use, [Thesis](#) truly takes the intimidation factor out of WordPress.

In fact, I'm using Thesis to roll out yet another website — but more about that another time. A girl's got to keep some of her secrets under wraps! ;)

Welcome to our MusicEdNews.Com RSS Journal

by [Dr. Joseph M. Pisano](#)
(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)



MusicEdNews.com! Please note this

Greetings all! Welcome to the Aggregated RSS Journal of

Journal is limited to 3000 Characters. Visit [MusicEdNews.Com](#) for complete information about these articles and stories.



Today at Listen & Learn Plus!

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/10/2011 6:00:33 AM

Even though the groundhog says we're going to have an early spring, it's still most definitely winter in these parts. And even if the flowers start blooming in the next few weeks, we'll still be singing about winter until March 20. Who else can hardly wait for that day to come?

I posted my original song [Winter's Here](#) back in December, but am just now getting a chance to share it with the members of Listen & Learn Plus! So today they're getting not only a free mp3 download, but also the lead sheet containing lyrics and chords.

Are you in need of fresh ideas, songs, and materials? I hope you'll consider joining us. Get in on the fun for only \$7 per month... [learn more about becoming a member today!](#)

Members, [click here](#) to access this post.

Reflections From a Music Therapy Intern

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/12/2011 6:00:49 AM

Karen Herzel, a graduate student at Illinois State University, joined me back in August as The Hope Institute's first-ever music therapy intern. I asked her to share some reflections as we approach the six-month mark of her internship (she'll be with me through May), and she graciously agreed. Here they are, in her own words:

As the second half of my internship evolves, it is a good feeling to reflect on the journey to this point. I can say, without a doubt, that the greatest part of the internship on a personal level has been the positive change in my belief in myself as a competent music

therapist.

I am consistently challenged to discern the needs of our clients, and then consider how best to address those needs within a group music therapy setting. I am continuously learning how to more effectively combine creativity and structure, and rejoice in the small effects for the students as well as the larger ones.

I am blessed to have a supervisor who believes in and encourages individual growth. Her wise and patient choices to allow flexibility within specific parameters, in addition to her honest and timely feedback have been, in my opinion, the keys to a truly worthwhile and educational opportunity for me.

We talk through so many facets of

music therapy itself, as well as how to most efficiently apply it to our specific special educational setting. She is also an amazing musician and therapist, and her example has been a strong catalyst in strengthening and broadening my own musicianship and therapy skills.

This has been, and will continue to be, a truly joyful journey. I feel confident that the excellent training and supervision I have received during this internship will allow for me to provide worthwhile services to clients in the future.

Thank you, Rachel, so very much, for so graciously putting wind under my music therapy wings.

Discussing Gender Bias In Classical Music Programming

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/11/2011 6:45:00 AM

This morning, I became aware of a rather busy hashtag conversation on Twitter. Follow [#DWG](#) for some interesting conversations.

It took me a while to figure out what

the thread was about, and what DWG stands for. A Google search turned up this [Twapper Keeper](#) with the description "Discussing music programming, gender bias, @nyphil, etc". From this, I figured out on my own that DWG stands for "dead white guys".



The hashtag is a place where people can discuss the gender biases in

classical music programming, particularly world-class symphony programs such as the New York Philharmonic.

Definitely an interesting thread to lurk on for a while.

Noteflight Announces Release Version 2.5

(MusicEdNews-Feed 2.0)

Submitted at 2/10/2011 7:36:00 PM

Noteflight released version 2.5 yesterday, which includes a few minor cosmetic changes in the menus for ease of use and a new full screen mode for working on scores.



See the full notes on the release [HERE](#)
Noteflight has become an important

tool in my classroom, both as a substitute on my class web pages for Scorch (we're an all Finale school)

and as an easily accessible notation program for my on-site and remote cyber students. I fully intend to purchase their [K-12 package](#) for next year and make good use of it with all of my students.