Alternative Styles of String Education: Methodology and Practices

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Abstract
This study surveyed the implementation of alternative styles of music in public school orchestras. Specifically, methods, resources, and practices used in public school orchestra programs were examined. The study focused on jazz, folk, rock, and other non-Western art music as alternative styles of string education. The study was quantitative and data was collected via on-line questionnaire. The sample was comprised of string educators who were members of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) in the state of Pennsylvania. The data collection process was completed within a two-week period. Fifty-three of the 495 NAfME members selected to participate in this study submitted survey responses, a return rate of 10.7%. The results indicated that strings educators are more likely to incorporate alternative styles into their strings curriculum if they were (1) older in age, which naturally allows for a larger timeframe in which to achieve a post-baccalaureate degree, and (2) using alternative styles method books.

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