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[www.pianosensei.com/NCKP2017](http://www.pianosensei.com/NCKP2017)

(Go to this link to see the presentation and video examples)

### **Primary Goal: foster CREATIVITY, IMAGINATION, and EXPRESSION**

Ask these questions:

- What does the music LOOK like? (Animals? People? Movement? Location? Colors?)
- What would this scene SOUND like? (Fast/slow, loud/quiet, high/low)
- What does it FEEL like? (emotions/moods, which relate back to sound and visual)

Start with pieces they already know

Come up with stories

Have group classes to share ideas and brainstorm together

Visualizers are great to expand awareness, creativity, and listening skills (see resources below)

### **What is Music Alive!?**

- Multimedia (music plus something visual) concert my students put on every September
- We use the summer to work on their projects
- Music can be anything (classical, pop, movie music, improvised, self-composed, etc.)
- Format can be live or recorded
- Visual can be video, photos, lights, graphics, acting, movement, art, etc.

### **Considerations for a multimedia concert:**

Plan ahead

- even more than typical recitals
- find venue that has capabilities you need
  - projector, screen, adequate piano, etc.
  - churches are ideal, but could be a local theater, community center, etc.
- help students plan their projects - get them thinking “visually”

Experiment

- before deciding on final project, experiment with a variety of options with each student
- don't just ask “what do you want to do?” — you'll get blank stares!
- give them ideas and lots of options
- start with a piece they can already play

How much guidance?

- use your best judgement for each student
- some will just need gentle nudging
- some need more, so you'll have to do it IN lessons

Allow the option to pre-record

- for those who can't attend the concert
- for those who suffer from performance anxiety
- for projects which are complex and require more precise synchronization

Involve parents

- always involve parents, but even more so for a project like this
- they need to be checking their child's progress
- get them excited so they can invite people!
- use them as volunteers to help with the concert

Adults, too! Don't leave them out, they love it!

## Resources

Visualizers

- G-force and Aeon [www.soundspectrum.com](http://www.soundspectrum.com)
- (download free versions; purchase GOLD versions to be able to use it with live audio)
- Magic Music <https://magicmusicvisuals.com/>
- not as user friendly, big learning curve, but highly customizable!

Images:

- [unsplash.com](http://unsplash.com) (high res, copyright-free images)
- [pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com) (copyright-free images and video clips)
- Google or Yahoo images (but some are copyrighted or not full resolution)
- or take your own photos!

Save online videos

- a must-have if using videos for ANY type of presentation
- don't rely on internet connection to play a YouTube video
- some videos don't stay online
- best solution is to download them to your hard drive so you can have them securely
  - Downloadhelper (browser add-on, search google to find the right one for you)
  - [www.videograbber.net](http://www.videograbber.net)

Movie editing software (there are many, but these are usually included)

- iMovie (mac)
- Movie Maker (windows)

Presentation software

- Keynote (mac)
- PowerPoint (windows)

Computer adapters —look for adapters that connect your computer port to:

- VGA
- HDMI

(I recommend having BOTH just in case)

Tech-savvy teenage students!

Related Resource:

2 Part article in *American Music Teacher*

“Using Multimedia to Enhance Lessons and Recitals”

June/July 2015 and August/September 2015

**Music Alive! Increases:**

- Creativity, imagination, and expression
- Students’ understanding of music
- Motivation
- Summer enrollment
- Recital participation
- Audience appreciation of music

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