



REPRESENTATION & ROLE MODELS

**TOOLS TO BUILD AN
INCLUSIVE AND IMPACTFUL
BRASS SECTION**

**2023 Midwest Clinic
S.H.O.P. Talk**

ASHLEY KILLAM, AMANDA COLLINS, AND DR. CARRIE BLOSSER

SHOP Talk:

Recruitment and retention of beginner band through undergraduate music program brass students. Actively engaging students with a diverse array of brass performers and styles. We will examine the obstacles that often hold players back from continuing in music and learn about considerations for supporting students.



BEGINNER BRASS STUDENTS

FIRST INTERACTION

- 1.Role model/parent/family/peer
- 2.Instrument petting zoo
- 3.School demo
- 4.TV/social media/youtube/instrument

OBSTACLES/BARRIERS TO OVERCOME

- 1.Get rid of instrument stereotyping (this goes for all instruments)
- 2.Inaccessibility (language, financial, abilities, home situations, etc.)
- 3.Do your students see themselves in the examples you share?

RETENTION IN MS, HS, AND BEYOND

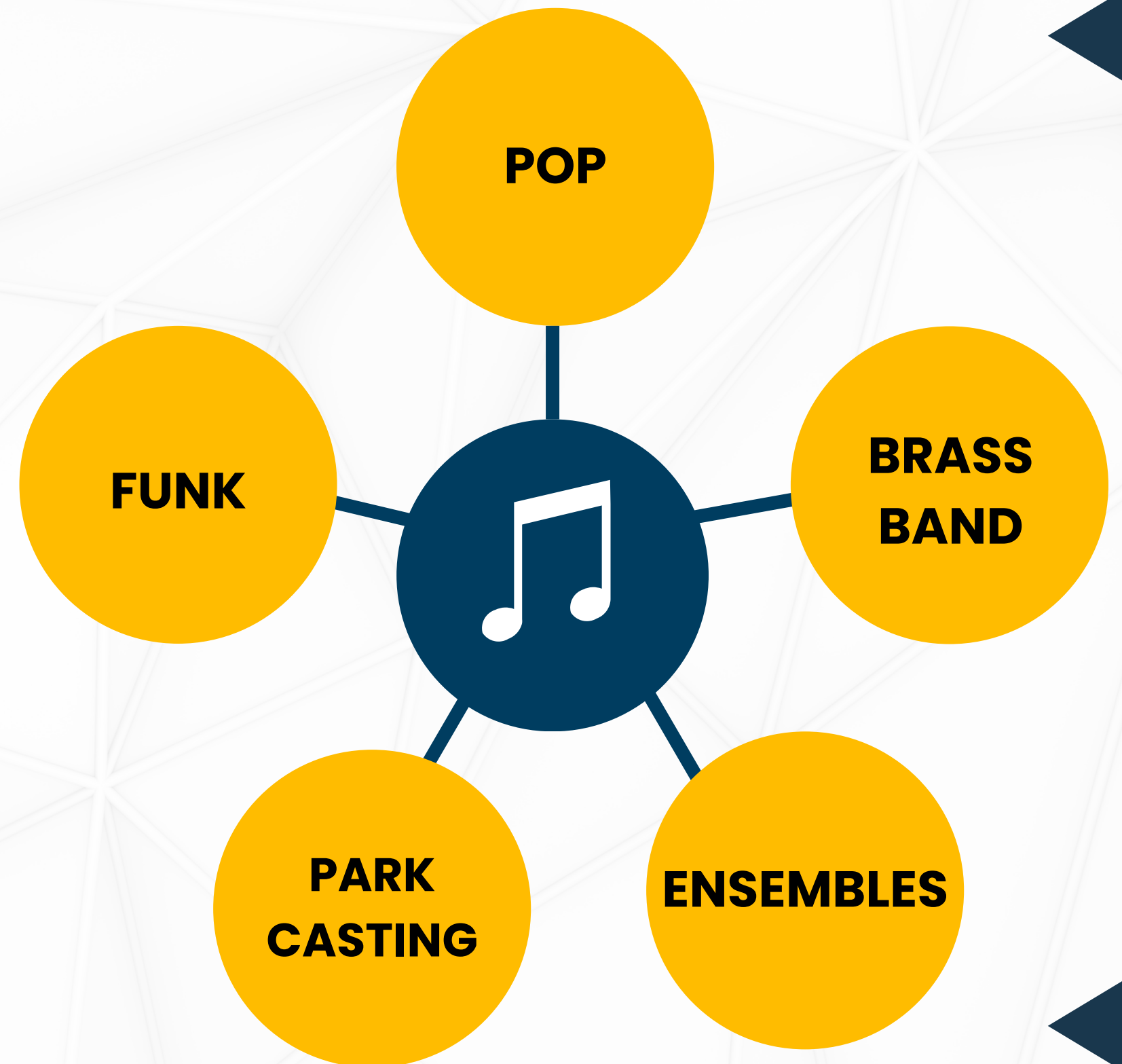
SUPPORT STUDENT EXPLORATION

The next slides dive into ways to support students in ways including:

- Expanding the music they play
- Programming and repertoire choices
- Finding a purpose/musical goal
- Connecting with the community

BRASS EXPECTATIONS: ORCHESTRA, MILITARY BAND, JAZZ BIG BAND/COMBOS

Reality: Brass instruments offer so much adaptability in genres and can be used in funk, brass quintets, trumpet ensembles, horn ensembles, pop songs, rock bands, NOLA brass bands, European Brass bands, cruise ship gigs, musical theatre, amusement park casting (Disney, Seaworld, BLAST!, Busch Gardens, Hershey park), studio orchestras (soundtracks for movies, video games)



COMPOSERS AND NEW MUSIC

1

DEPTH

- Program a wide range of backgrounds: Makes band fun, opens up doors for students, and allows students to learn how to research, discover, and find their individual interests.

2

VISIBILITY

- Work with living composers provides students the opportunity to connect with composers in person or over Zoom!

3

VARIETY

- Commissions/consortiums for new works
- Works without recordings!

4

OPPORTUNITY

- Become the composer!
- Bring creativity to the classroom and allow students to explore and become their own composer!

MUSICAL PURPOSE WHAT'S THE GOAL?

Not every student you teach will have the desire and goals to become a professional musician – this is OKAY! Take time to explore with your students and find their goals, purposes, and fulfilling and unique paths. A few musical purposes may include:

CONTEST/COMPETITIONS

WORKING UP TO A SPECIFIC
TECHNICAL/MUSICAL GOAL

JUST HAVING FUN

BUILDING A DAILY ROUTINE

PERFORMING IN CONCERTS

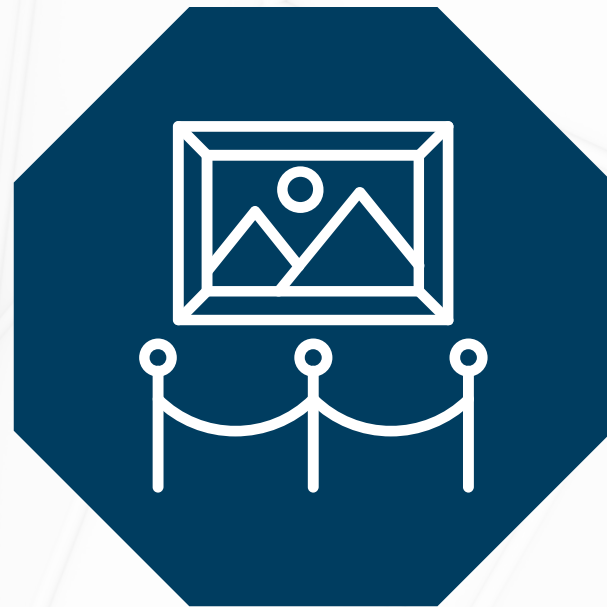
MAKING MUSIC WITH FRIENDS

PERFORMANCE VENUE LOCATION

Is it feasible to collaborate with different venues for ensemble performances? Create a community WITH other performing and visual art organizations, mediums, and events. This will expand the audience and how we all think of music and art!



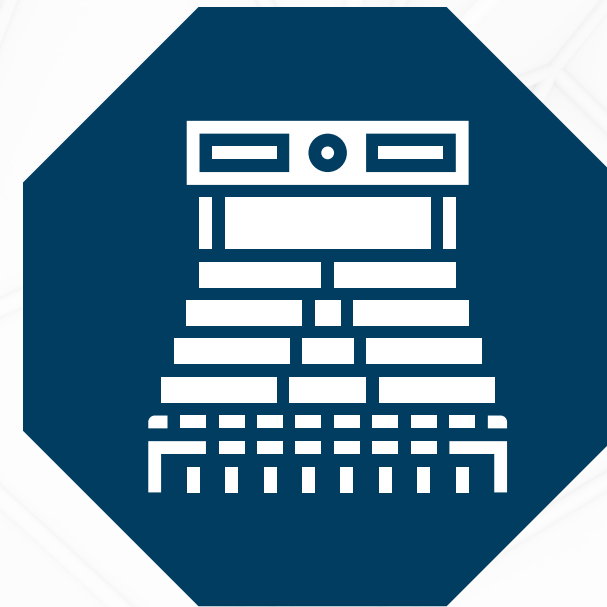
**COMMUNITY
SPACE**



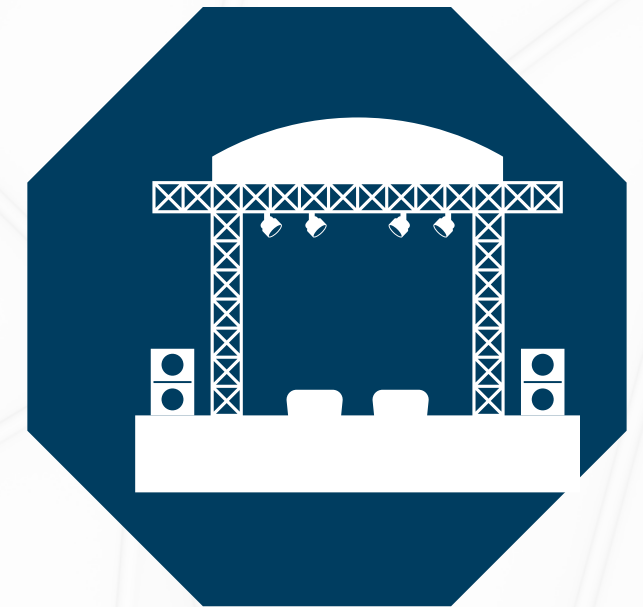
ART MUSEUM



CHURCH



OUTDOOR VENUE



STAGE

REPRESENTATION IN DAILY EXAMPLES

Show students what is possible in EVERYTHING you do. From the composers programmed, audio/video examples shared, to the guest artists and collaborators you work with, work to show students there is not one true “path” to enjoying music and ANYONE and EVERYONE deserves a seat at the table.

Ways to build this into the classroom:

- Composer units
- Research units
- Personal projects
- Chamber units mixing up instrumentation
- Writing their own original works and/or arrangements
- Concerts featuring ensembles/chamber/new styles, expanding outside of the “traditional classical band” mold
- Get student feedback! What type of music do they like? What are they interested in? Use this to build your semester/year plan





COMMUNITY SETTINGS FOR STUDENTS TO ENGAGE

**COMMUNITY
BANDS/ORCHESTRAS**

**LOCAL ARTISTS
LOOKING TO
COLLABORATE**

CONTACT US

Amanda Collins
<https://www.acollinshorn.com>

Ashley Killam
www.ashleykillam.com

Carrie Blosser
www.carrieblosser.com





**THANK
YOU!**