



The  
Midwest  
Clinic

International Band  
and Orchestra Conference



# Making It Their Space

**Empowering Student Voice  
and Ownership  
in Your Music Program**

**Cecilia Clark, Young Kim,  
David Vandewalker, and Taylor Watts  
Presenting**

---

**TO CREATE A GREAT MUSICAL PERFORMANCE, TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE ARTISTIC STANDARDS MAY BE ENJOYED, TEACHERS MUST NURTURE THE HUMAN SPIRIT OF THEIR STUDENTS.**

**Paula Crider**



## CRAFTING BRAVE SPACES WHERE MUSIC EXPRESSION THRIVES

---



Ben Zander

*Author, Art of Possibility*

# QUESTION...

How do we create a  
Culture of Excellence that  
**AWAKENS POSSIBILITY?**

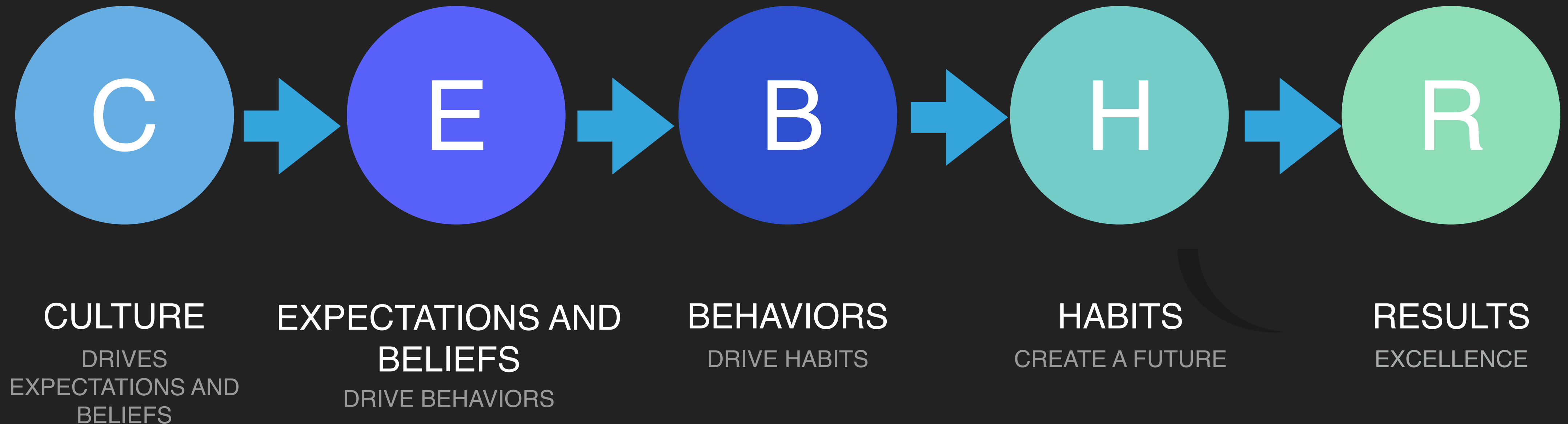




# MAKE IT THEIR SPACE

**Empower Student Voice and  
Ownership in Your Program**

# PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE







---

**“We are psychologically,  
emotionally, cognitively, and  
spiritually hardwired for  
connection, love, and  
belonging.”**

---

**–Brené Brown**





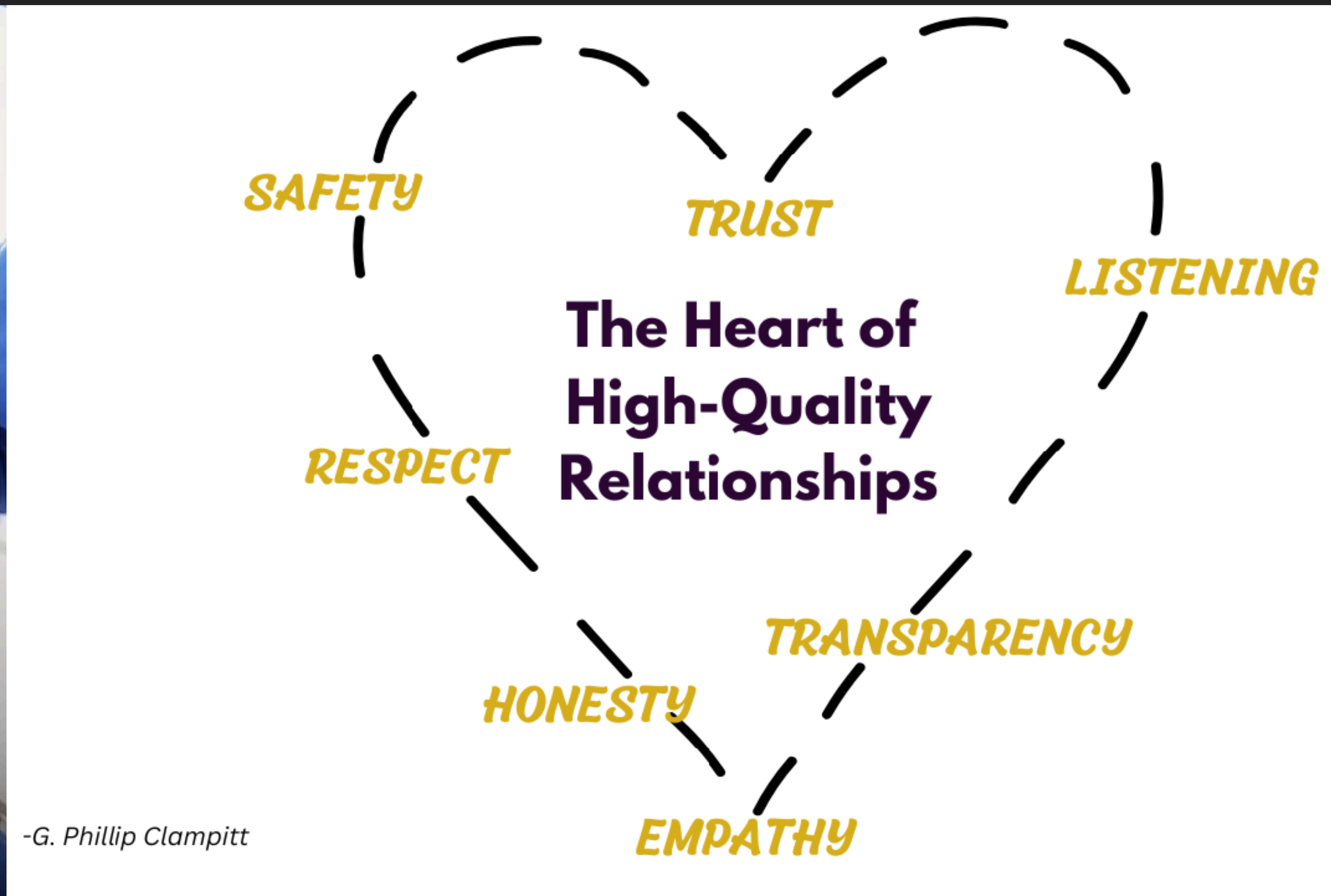
# Focus on Connection

**What is it?**  
**Why is it impactful?**



CRAFTING BRAVE SPACES WHERE MUSIC EXPRESSION THRIVES

# RELATIONSHIPS THRU CONNECTIONS







# The ultimate goal for **CONNECTION**



**TRUST**  
*Relationships*



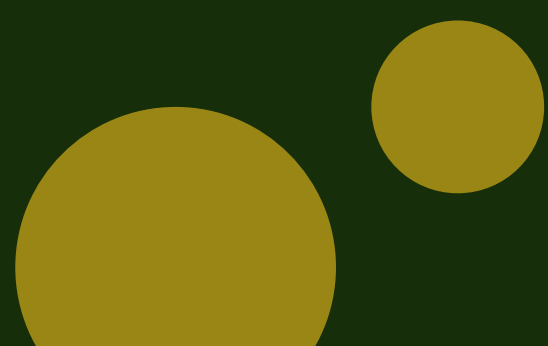


# UNDERSTANDING

**Understanding** is the cornerstone of trust.  
It involves truly comprehending someone else's  
perspective, needs, and emotions.

You can trust someone when you feel your needs are  
understood, felt, and cared about.

When you take the time to listen actively and empathize  
with others, you create an environment of trust.







## MOTIVE

**Motive** speaks to the intentions behind one's actions.

Trustworthy individuals consistently demonstrate genuine care for others' well-being rather than solely focusing on their own agenda.

When your motives are pure and transparent, others feel safe and secure in relying on you.



## ABILITY

Ability refers to competence in fulfilling commitments or responsibilities.

Trust is built when people have confidence in your skills, knowledge, and capacity to deliver on promises.

Demonstrating expertise and consistently producing high-quality work fosters a sense of reliability that others can depend on.





# CHARACTER

**Character encompasses your values, ethics, and integrity.**

**Trustworthy individuals are guided by strong moral principles that they consistently uphold even when faced with difficult decisions or temptations.**

**By demonstrating unwavering honesty and ethical behavior, you earn the respect of others.**





# TRACK RECORD

A track record is tangible proof of trustworthiness over time. Consistently delivering on promises builds a solid reputation that precedes you wherever you go.

Your past actions serve as evidence of your reliability—a track record that instills confidence in those who seek to place their trust in you.

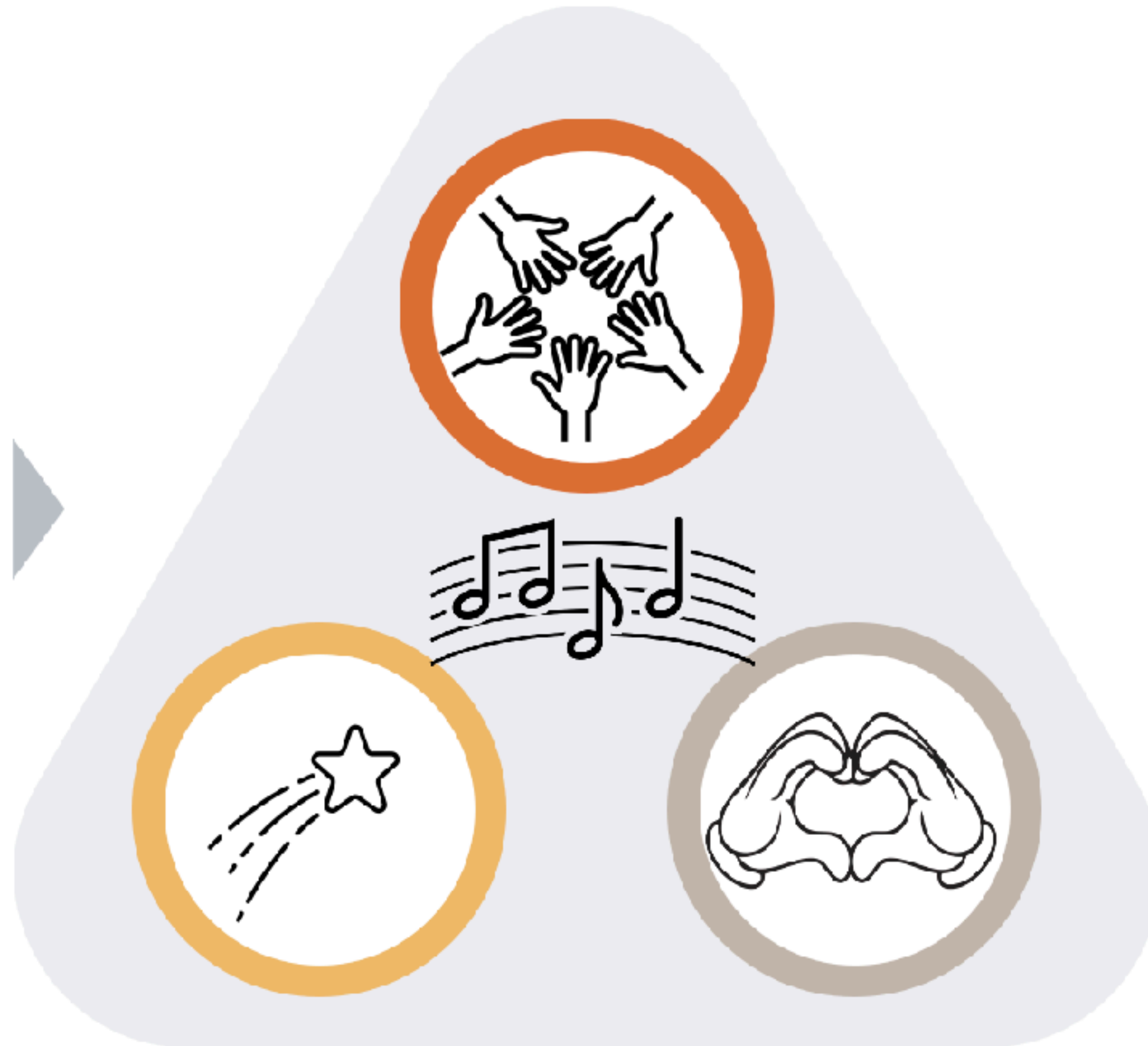


# Crafting Culture

that values both MUSIC and PEOPLE

## CULTURE

Culture drives engagement and productivity, decision-making, organizational health and impacts retention



Servant Leadership Association for Music

## Purpose

is the desire to do things in service of something larger than ourselves

## Excellence

is the desire to continually improve to achieve mastery at something that matters

## Belonging

Is the sense of feeling loved and appreciated fostered through connection & autonomy

---

# Connections Help Make It Their Space



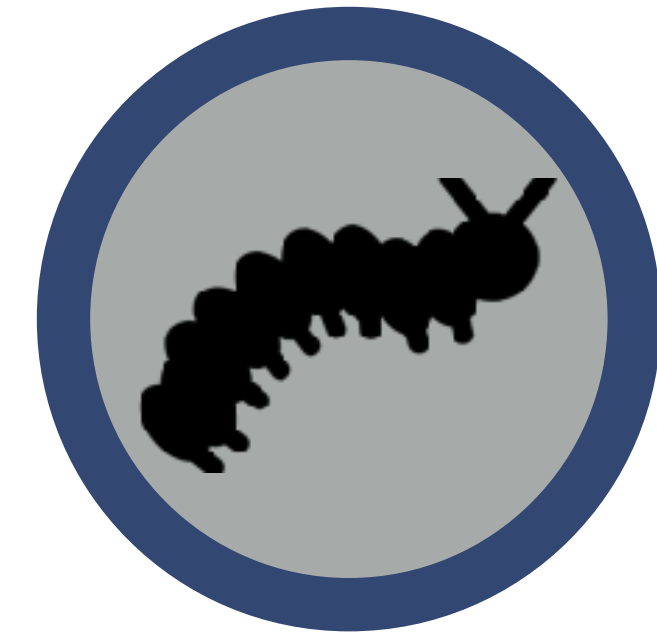
## Queen Bee

High-flyers who naturally excel and achieve in one or more areas



## Worker Ant

Members who comprise the majority, creating and adapting to the status quo



## Caterpillar

Vulnerable students who need extra support, attention, and care to metamorphosize





## Tick

- Those who feed off making others feel badly.
- Must not be allowed to get established (“bite”).
- However, they are **ALSO** a QB, ant, or caterpillar.
- Have an early individual conversation.



## Purpose



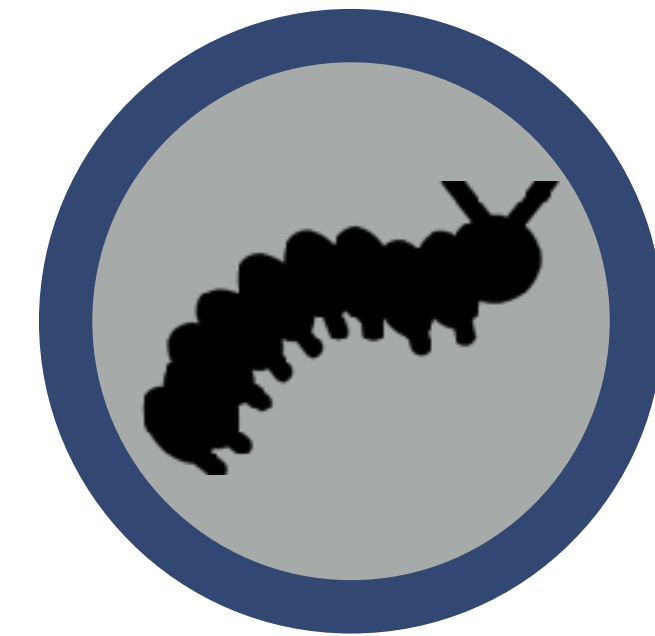
### Queen Bee

Looking for ways to grow their influence, to experience exceptional opportunities, and to leave a legacy.



### Worker Ant

Looking to be a part of something great and have a community to call home



### Caterpillar

Looking for a place to be seen, cared for, and open up within





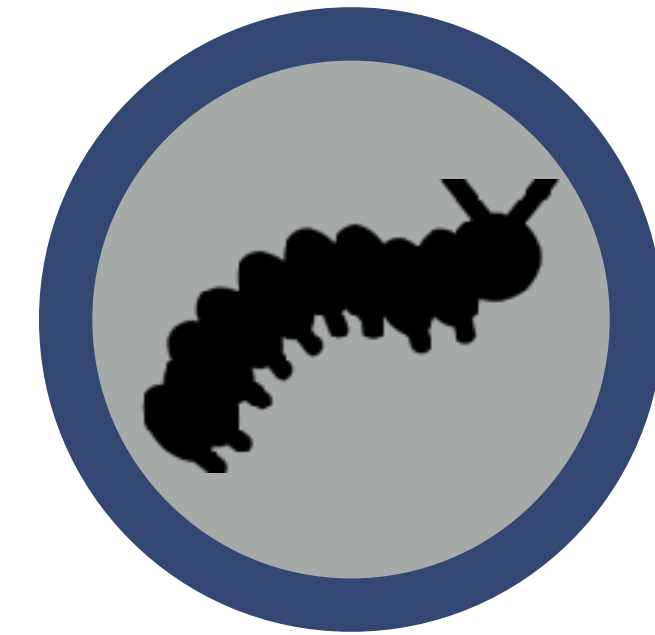
## Queen Bee

Want to be challenged, see the extent of what's possible, and produce something extraordinary



## Worker Ant

Want to feel accomplished, see improvement, and be proud of their efforts



## Caterpillar

Want to feel safe, be given targeted guidance, and contribute to the team



## Belonging



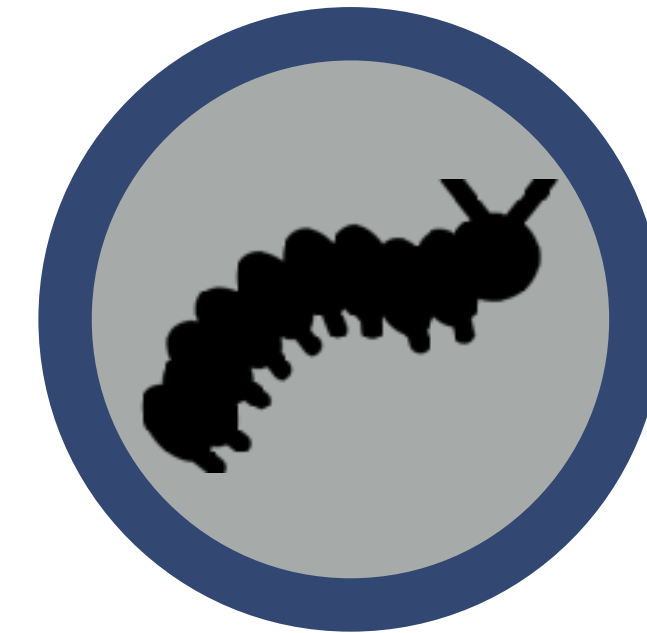
### Queen Bee

Hoping to make an impact  
on the students around  
them and be recognized for  
their contributions



### Worker Ant

Hoping to find a group to  
call home and friends to  
grow alongside



### Caterpillar

Hoping to find others who  
will help bring them out of  
their shell and blossom





# COMMUNITY BUILDING





# **COMMUNITY BUILDING**

**What does it look like  
on and off the  
podium?**





# COMMUNITY BUILDING

**How do you empower your  
students and parents?**





# Voice & Choice

**What does it look like in musical and non-musical settings?**

**How can you implement these strategies?**





STRATEGIES

# VOICE AND CHOICE

**3 QUESTIONS  
STORYTELLING  
DIAGNOSE & PRESCRIBE  
MICRO TEACHING  
PEER COACHING  
REFLECTION  
CIRCLES  
RECRUITING**







CONNECTION

# DEVELOPING OWNERSHIP

“With a culture of student ownership and engagement . . . students are not consumers but rather are partners in their education.”

— *David Edward Goldberg*



“Your life must be a progression towards ownership—first mentally of your independence, and then physically of your work, owning what you produce.”

— *Robert Greene*

WB45





CONNECTION

# AUTONOMY & OWNERSHIP



Promoting **autonomy** in our music programs enables students to explore various avenues of creativity and discover how to utilize their gifts and talents beyond the realm of music.

Ownership empowers students to take **risks** and venture into **new ideas** **without the fear** of judgment or failure.

This sense of freedom nurtures **self-determination**, igniting their **motivation** and **passion** for their **MUSIC**.





CONNECTION

# AUTONOMY & OWNERSHIP

It is essential to educate our students in the operational and administrative elements that contribute to the creation of a comprehensive music education program of excellence.

By understanding these elements and their own contributions, students can empower the success of their school's music program.





CONNECTION

# OWNERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE



- Set up facility for rehearsal
- Collect forms or music
- Work in the music library
- Manage supplies (uniforms, reeds, tech equipment, etc.)
- Peer mentoring with organizational needs, learning music or drill
- Tune or warm up sections
- Manage attendance for sections in rehearsal
- Collaborate with chaperones informed
- Makes announcements
- Rehearse and perform in the community
- Create content for social channels or podcast



# OWNERSHIP ADVOCACY CONNECTIONS



- Assist with school performances
- High school students could help the middle school and elementary production support
- Perform side-by-side concerts
- Write articles for the local paper about upcoming concerts, trips, and festivals
- Teach lessons to new members of class or younger students
- Participate on school-wide boards.
- Present mini-concerts at community and PTA/PTO meetings
- Participate in community service, clean-up projects, or food drives
- Perform chamber music or pep groups for veterans and senior adults





# OWNERSHIP AFFIRMATION & RESPECT

- Publish student pictures in concert advertisements and social channels
- Create banners containing student pictures for your room or hallway
- Use quotations about the academic benefits of being in a school music program with pictures of your students
- Provide an area in your classroom to showcase your students' involvement in various activities, such as the debate team, chorus, football, and drama
- Have a suggestion box
- Include student highlights in your communications info [music and school-wide wins]



**“INSIDE EACH STUDENT  
LIES A SEED OF  
BRILLIANCE BUT UNLESS  
WE HAVE THE RIGHT  
ENVIRONMENT, THAT SEED  
RISKS NOT BLOOMING.”**

-Peter Gamwell

