



“The power of musical play”

Dr. Julie Derges Kastner

Department of Music

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

12:15 - 1:15 pm, MD Anderson Library

Room 306 (Brown bag lunches welcome)

When thinking about “playing” music, many often think about listening to their favorite band or performing on an instrument. However, the term can also refer to playing with music, taking a hands-on approach to create something new. Educators have long recognized the importance of play in learning, and music educators have begun including creative music play in their classrooms. This musical play can take many of forms, such as student groups making a rock mash-up; an individual creating a multi-track, split-screen music video; or musicians performing in a virtual ensemble. Engaging in music play is a more informal, vernacular approach that allows students to develop many skills valued in 21st Century society, like collaboration, problem-solving, and critical thinking. More importantly, though, the real power of play with music is that it provides opportunities for human connection, artistry, and expression that individuals can take with them and use throughout their lives.

Speaker Biography

Julie Derges Kastner, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor and Chair of Music Education in the Moores School of Music, where she teaches courses in elementary and secondary general music and graduate music education. She earned her master’s and doctoral degrees at Michigan State University after teaching public school music for several years in Virginia. Her research focuses on informal music learning in K-12 schools and music teacher professional development. She has been published in international and national research journals and continues teaching children as a part of the Marks Family Children’s Music Outreach Initiative in the Third Ward.

Website: http://www.uh.edu/kgmca/music/faculty-staff/kastner_j/



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