

VOICES  
Another Way

by Christine Kharazian

I love music. Music has always been my friend. It shares my joy when I am happy, and consoles me when I am sad. So, I want to show my students how music can be their friend, too.

This is how I thought in the beginning.

I entered the classroom. I spoke gently, sang a song, and played the violin. A few faces lit up—the few that listened. Just a few...

Then the room teacher came in, and with a strict tone and a stern expression on her face, told the class: “All of you sit still and listen—or else.” Everyone complied.



I thought to myself: Is this the only way it works? How can I act like that, and share the joy of music at the same time?

Inspired Teaching has shown me that there is another way. I learned that rather than feeling hurt and distancing myself from students who don't listen, I should come closer to them. I should listen to their stories, for every student has a story.

I should get to know my students, and let them know me. Instead of copying the style and tone of the stern teacher, I should be more myself, opening myself to my students.

The bigger question is: How did realizing all of this affect my teaching?

I am still not a teacher whose entrance brings a hush over the class. I probably never will be. But my students are always happy to see me, and why shouldn't they be? I am a music teacher, an Inspired Music Teacher, and my students know that music is their friend. It shares their joy when they are happy, and consoles them when they are sad...

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