Diverse Learners

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Unparalled Diversity in our Schools

- Socio-economic
- Ethnic
- Religious
- Exceptionalities
 - Physical handicaps
 - Sensory handicaps
 - Attention deficit
 - Behavioral disorders
 - Learning disabilities
 - Retardation

One of Our Biggest Challenges

- How to teach such diversity in a music class...
- All students deserve a chance to express themselves musically
- It is our task to include note exclude

Multicultural Diversity

- We must honor cultural differences while guiding students to learn a common core of knowledge
- Two basic ways to address multiculturalism
 - Multicultural music education = intensive study of cultures outside mainstream
 - World music education = relativity of various styles across the world

Multiculturalism in Traditional Ensembles

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- Repertoire selection
- Added instruments
- Guest artists

Exceptional Learners Mainstreamed

- 1975 Education for Handicapped Children Act = mandated "Individualized Education Plan" (IEPs)
- 1990 Individuals with Disabilities Act = addressed the needs of autism, ADD, and other special needs
- Students with needs in one area may have strong compensations in another

Who Are These Students?

- Students with exceptional needs comprise 9.5% of the population. In this group...
 - nearly half have learning disabilities
 - 11% are mentally retarded
 - 9% have emotional or behavioral disorders
 - Gifted students also often get left behind

Music for Exceptional Learners

- Music holds promise for many young exceptional learners
- It can be transmitted aurally
- Like with class management, plan ahead and be prepared to make accommodations to teach exceptional learners. Do your homework.