

A WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE “MAKING MUSIC WORK FOR EDUCATION”

by
DANIEL STEINER



President Daniel Steiner welcomes participants to New England Conservatory's National Conference: "What Makes Music Work for Public Education: Innovative Practices and Research from a National Perspective."

AS PRESIDENT, I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE RESEARCH CENTER, AND I'M VERY PLEASED THAT NEC IS INVOLVED. SINCE A BASIC PART OF OUR MISSION AT NEC IS TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR MUSIC IN OUR SOCIETY, I SEE US ADVOCATING MUSIC, AS WE ARE THROUGH THIS RESEARCH CENTER, IN A VARIETY OF WAYS, AS LONG AS THEY DON'T DIVERT RESOURCES FROM OUR CENTRAL MISSION AS A PERFORMANCE SCHOOL FOR TRAINING OF MUSICIANS.

Through the Research Center for Learning Through Music, we are exploring the effects of a comprehensive and authentic—and I emphasize authentic—music program integrated into a program of instruction in traditional academic subjects. The principal programs we now have are in an elementary school in Nahant, a suburb of Boston; an elementary school in Lynn, another suburb of Boston; and perhaps most importantly, a charter school that the Conservatory helped found in Boston in 1999 called the Conservatory Lab Charter School, where the integration of music into the curriculum is the central theory

on which the school is founded. We've also integrated our Research Center and its activities into our music education program for our students, providing very interesting mentorships and internships for undergraduates in the Conservatory.

There are some very exciting outcomes that are possible from these activities: we can help create a viable and feasible way to improve elementary education in this country. In addition, and very, very importantly, we can help restore music literacy as a common feature in our society. As president, I strongly support the efforts of the

Research Center, and I'm very pleased that NEC is involved. Since a basic part of our mission at NEC is to be an advocate for music in our society, I see us advocating music, as we are through this Research Center, in a variety of ways, as long as they don't divert resources from our central mission as a performance school for training of musicians.

This three-day conference explored a variety of interesting questions surrounding the integration of

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