



STRING DAY: AN OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EVENT FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS AND THEIR TEACHERS

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Overview

This project was designed to create a music education event for high school age string players and local music educators, that would take place on our campus in Capistrano Hall. As we look to grow our music programs, outreach into the greater Sacramento community is essential. With this event we brought over twenty young musicians and ten local music teachers to Sac State to work with our faculty, learn more about our program, and meet some of our current Sac State School of Music students.

Project Background

While many local high schools have thriving concert band and jazz band programs, there are significantly fewer string orchestra programs. In addition to that, many of the teachers have expressed the value and need for string music educator seminars. This led to the idea behind the project – to have a string education day that was designed both for students and music educators.

Project Significance

There were several important goals in the creation and implementation of this project. First, to create and host the event to help recruit new students to the Sacramento State School of Music. Second, to continue to make sure that Sac State is a resource for music education in the greater Sacramento area. Third, to create a template that can be used for future years, with the idea that this event could be held every spring through the School of Music. Finally, student assistants were hired and able to get hands on experience in teaching high school age musicians, as well as experience in some of the administrative tasks required to run the event.

Project Implementation

A poster and postcard were created as well as a Qualtrics survey for signing up. These materials were posted on social media, handed out at schools and education events, and emailed to the local music education organizations and music educators.

On the day of the event, the students spent the morning working with our wonderful Sac State faculty, while I led a session with the educators discussing string pedagogy techniques. In the afternoon everyone was put together in one large ensemble to see the pedagogical techniques of the morning session put into practice.

The overall day was a great success with over thirty people on campus to learn about the art of string playing. The day culminated with a small performance with all the students participating as a newly formed string orchestra.

After the project was completed, a Qualtrics survey was sent to participants to see how the event can be refined and improved for the future. We received great feedback from our exit survey. Comments included:

“... I appreciated the session on bowing you did at the Sac State string day. I picked up the Kjelland books and it has really opened my eyes to the complexities of bowing. I'll be implementing a lot of that with my orchestra next year.”

And

“String Day was a very insightful event ... I was able to soak in information easily that I apply to my playing now. So, I'm very grateful to the instructors and I hope I can come back next year.”

Project Challenges

Due to the tight window between the grant being awarded and needing to schedule the event, finding an available time was a challenge. The event was hosted on May 10th, 2025. In the future based on the survey results, the early spring would be better for most students and teachers.

Hosting minors on campus for an event is a significant challenge from an administrative perspective. Every family had to fill out multiple forms (liability, media release, etc.) and all faculty involved needed to complete additional training through CSU Learn.

In addition, Risk Management needed to approve the use of the space and this required some significant paperwork and lead time.

These limitations will be easier to manage in the future with more lead time as well as now having a better understanding of the administrative tasks necessary. Having a slightly larger budget and more student assistants would also help to facilitate and minimize these issues.



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