

MUS 782

FOUNDATIONS OF MUSIC EDUCATION: PHILOSOPHY
NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Defending Music Education Programs in Schools

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A photograph of two students in a music classroom. In the foreground, a young Black woman with braided hair is playing a trumpet, looking intently at the instrument. Behind her, a young man is playing a saxophone. To the left, a music stand holds sheet music. The image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay, and a bright green vertical bar is in the top right corner.

School Music Education Programs are in Trouble

Top 4 reasons why music education programs face cuts



Nearsighted approach to budget constraints



Many school leaders lack innovation



The value systems in schools are outdated



Existing music programs are underperforming

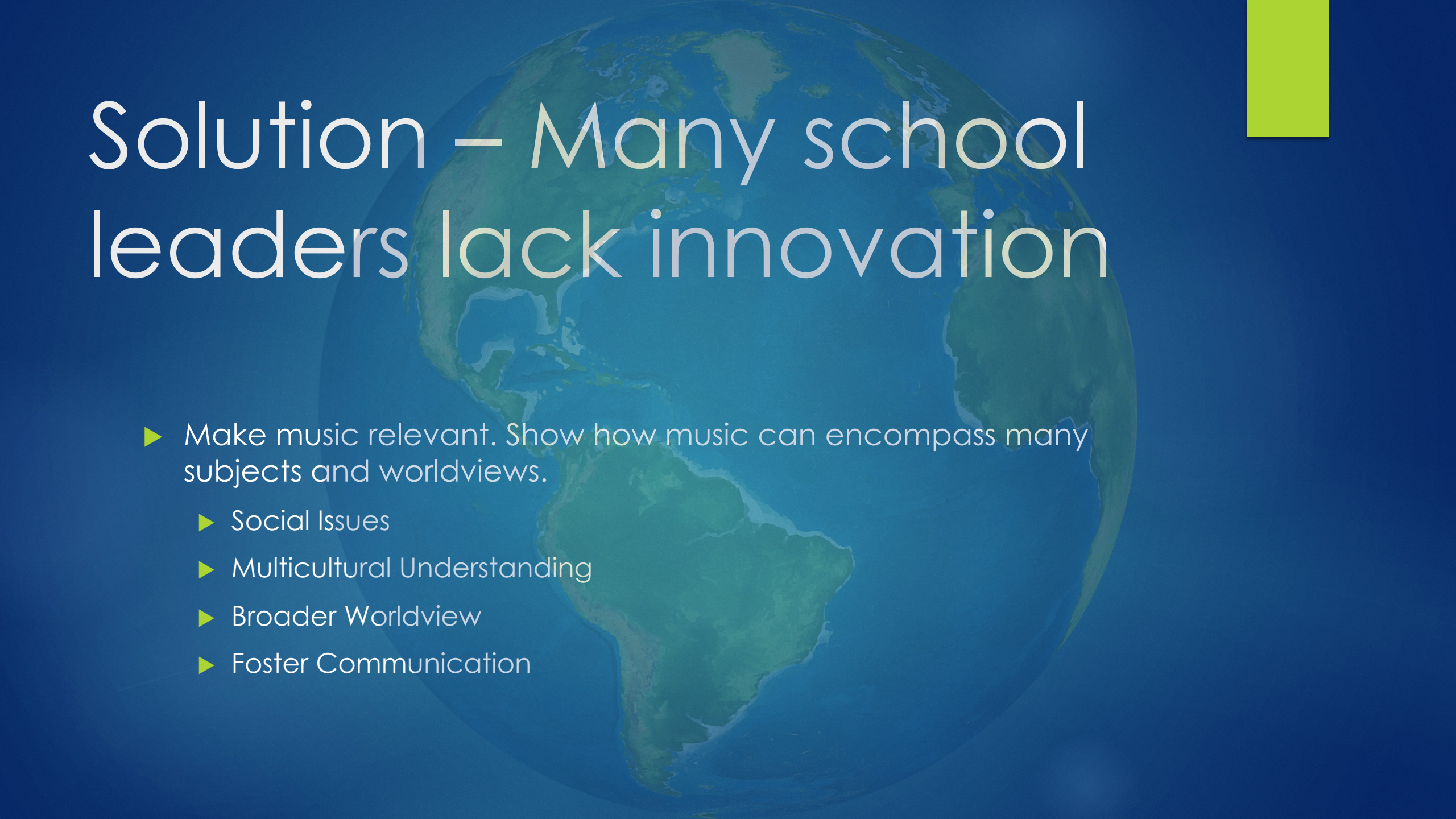
Problem – Nearsighted approach to budget constraints

MANY VIEW CUTTING MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS AS A QUICK AND EASY FIX FOR BUDGET CONSTRAINTS.

Solution – Nearsighted approach to budget constraints

Problem – Many school leaders lack innovation

- ▶ THE EDUCATION MODEL BEING USED TODAY WAS BUILT IN THE 19TH CENTURY. MUSIC TOOK A BACK SEAT TO OTHER ACADEMIC AREAS.



Solution – Many school leaders lack innovation

- ▶ Make music relevant. Show how music can encompass many subjects and worldviews.
 - ▶ Social Issues
 - ▶ Multicultural Understanding
 - ▶ Broader Worldview
 - ▶ Foster Communication

Problem – The value systems in many schools are outdated

- ▶ Many administrators do not think music education is vital to curriculum.
- ▶ Most teachers do not know how to defend their music programs.

Solution – The value systems in schools are outdated

- ▶ Students must be active participants in the learning process
 - ▶ Diverse Music Exposure
 - ▶ Foster Open-Mindedness
 - ▶ Utilize Active Listening
 - ▶ Hands-On Learning

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Problem – Existing music programs are underperforming

- ▶ Music teachers need to justify being in the curriculum.
- ▶ Underperforming music program = students leaving

Solution – Existing music programs are underperforming

- ▶ Create an environment where all students feel accepted
 - ▶ Every student can participate
 - ▶ Equal treatment
 - ▶ Safe place
 - ▶ Mutual respect
 - ▶ Acknowledge worldviews
 - ▶ Get to know them individually
 - ▶ Account for strengths and weaknesses

Summary: Defending your Music Education Program

- ▶ Create a safe environment, with equal treatment and mutual respect
- ▶ Maintain a high standard of ethics
- ▶ Make music relevant to your students' worldview
- ▶ Encourage students to be active participants
- ▶ Get students excited

Bonus Solution: Remember your support network

- ▶ Encourage community involvement:
 - ▶ Attend concerts
 - ▶ Assist with lessons
 - ▶ Be aware of timing for budgets & elections
 - ▶ Contact the media
 - ▶ Contact administrators
 - ▶ Contact elected officials

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Thank you!

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