

THE MUSICAL BRAIN

Teaching, Learning and Performing with the Brain in Mind

A fully engaged experience with and discussion of your brain's musical operating systems and how these systems lead to learning. This discussion is tailored for musicians, educators and music educators but will fascinate anyone interested in music or how the brain works. We will discuss topics such as teaching music, teaching with music as a tool, learning music, music/emotion/memory and performing music



James Walker Pearson is currently in his tenth year as a music educator. He holds the position of elementary music teacher for South Thibodaux, Thibodaux, and W. S. Lafargue elementary schools in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Mr. Pearson is also in demand as a lecturer, mentor and clinician on topics such as classroom management, instructional methods, and the effects of musical experience on brain development and learning. He has also presented school-wide and district-wide faculty development seminars in these areas.

Mr. Pearson has received state-wide recognition as a researcher. He presented his paper "The Brain and Learning via Musical Vectors" at the 2011 state-wide conference for the Louisiana Educational Research Association (LERA). He has also been invited to speak at Louisiana music educators association state convention and numerous graduate and undergraduate education seminars.

As a general music teacher in a recently founded elementary music program, Mr. Pearson has written and received multiple grants from various local and national philanthropic groups. As a result of these efforts, Mr. Pearson has developed a comprehensive general music program that boasts the largest collection of Orff and ethnic percussion instruments in the local LMEA district.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Pearson received his bachelors of music education from Nicholls state university and his masters of music education from Boston University. The combination of his academic training and his personal experience of recovering from a brain aneurysm has given him both academic and clinical insight into the interaction of the brain with music and learning.