

Participation in the School Orchestra and String Teachers Facebook v2 group: An online community of practice.

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Abstract:

The School Orchestra and String Teachers v2 (SOST v2) Facebook group is a self-directed online community of study we describe the posting behaviour of SOST v2 members during the initial eighteen months of its launch. An analysis of member-initiated posts (N=1,676) revealed the following: Nearly 22 per cent of SOST v2 members contributed repertoire (n=276), teaching advice (n=252) and links to articles and websites (n=231) were the most frequently posted. SOST v2 members represent Canada, Hong Kong, Morocco, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States and string teachers have formed a viable community of practice on Facebook. Facebook groups provide a means by which teachers may form a network for informal learning for music teachers and communicate easily with peers across geographical boundaries. Challenges and potential of social media research are discussed.

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