# B ULLET IN of the Council for Research in MUSIC EDUCATION

Relationships Among Impulsivity, Achievement Goal Motivation, and the Music Practice of High School Wind Players

Observation and Analysis of Expert Teaching in Beginning Band

Predicting Jazz Improvisation Achievement Through the Creation of a Path-Analytical Model

Learning in a Celtic Community: An Exploration of Informal Music Learning and Adult Amateur Musicians

Field-Generated Research Agenda in Music Education: A Qualitative Study of Music Supervisors and Music Teachers

Exhausted from Educational Reform



# BULLETIN

# of the Council for Research in MUSIC EDUCATION

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#### 2007-2008 OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD

Joshua Alexander Russell University of Colorado at Boulder Advised by James Austin

# CAREER DECISIONS OF STRING MUSIC EDUCATORS: FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH RETENTION, MIGRATION, AND ATTRITION

#### Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine a range of factors that may affect string music teachers' decisions to remain in the profession, migrate to a related position, or leave. Specific research questions were: What proportion of string music teachers are stayers, movers, or leavers? Where might string music teachers go when they decide to migrate or leave the profession? Which factors are most strongly associated with the immediate and long-term career decisions of string teachers? Based on one-year and five-year projections, to what extent can string music teachers be accurately classified as stayers, movers, or leavers? Three hundred and four randomly selected K-12 string music educators from the ASTA membership completed a 44-item questionnaire. Descriptive statistics were computed for all variables and factor analysis was used to reduce data and explore the underlying structure of factors impacting career decisions. Discriminant analysis was used to distinguish between stayers, migrators, and leavers. Most participants planned to remain in the same position in one year. One half of participants planned to be in the same position five years out, while remaining teachers planned to migrate or leave teaching. Migrating participants most commonly planned to move to another K-12 teaching position in the same or another district. Few planned to leave teaching temporarily or transition to other education related fields. The majority of participants leaving cited retirement as the reason. Factors found to be significantly associated with the immediate career decisions of string music educators included work culture, subject importance, student characteristics, position characteristics, and teacher socio-economic background. Work culture, subject importance, student characteristics, and position characteristics were also significantly associated with long-term career plans. In addition, professional relationships, number of children, teaching experience, receiving an award or recognition, mentor program participation, and marital status were significantly associated with long-term career plans. Stayers were the only group adequately classified. Migrators/ leavers were classified at or below the level of chance. Two meta-variables best predict group membership in long-term career plans of string music educators: personal teacher characteristics (PTC) and professional work life (PWL). Implications and recommendations for further research are provided.

# NOMINATION PERIOD For the OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD

We are pleased to announce the opening of the nomination period for the Outstanding Dissertation Award sponsored by the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*. Dissertations completed during the 2008-2009 academic year are eligible for nomination. As you consider your nominations you may wish to keep the following criteria in mind:

- Does the research topic contribute to the body of knowledge in music education?
- Is the statement of purpose clear?
- Is the review of the literature adequate?
- Is the research methodology appropriate for the topic and genre?
- Are the procedures clearly defined, properly administered, and accurately reported?
- Do the conclusions follow logically from the results of the study?
- Are the form and style appropriate for the genre?

Judges are advised to consider criteria as appropriate for each research paradigm—philosophical/theoretical, historical, qualitative, and quantitative—so that each dissertation is judged on its individual merits. Dissertations ranked in the top 20 percent are then submitted to a panel of judges to make the final decision. Confidentiality and fairness are assured through a "blind" judging process.

In order to expedite the nomination process, please visit our website at www.crme.uiuc.edu and use the online nomination form. We will contact the nominees with a congratulatory letter informing them of your nomination and request an electronic copy of their dissertation prepared for blind review.

Nominations for dissertations completed in 2008-2009 will remain open until October 15, 2009, at that time the nominations will be closed and the review process will begin.

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