

Every day presents an opportunity to learn something new through various experiences - meaningful and sometimes even mundane, through mistakes, from my surroundings and from people. I realize the importance of being purposeful in thought, word and deed - making room for growth, finding ways to be a blessing to others by giving back in whatever way I can and seeking ways to perpetuate a love for the arts. Having graciously received knowledge, guidance, kindness and love from so many people, I seek to share what I have learned and help people living a purpose driven life.

With this core belief, I strive to fulfill my multiple roles to the best I can: a teacher to over 300 diligent students and about 1200 more whom I have taught over the years, a mentor to several young people encouraging them to use the arts as an effective means of communication; to think creatively, act responsibly, give wholeheartedly and love unconditionally, an artistic director to the award winning group I direct - The Harmony Chorus, a role model to those who follow my work, a wife to my supportive husband, a mother to two lovely teen girls, a daughter to my loving parents and in-laws, and hopefully be an inspiration to the world.

The Problem:

India, with a population of over 1.3 billion people, lacks the infrastructure to support music education in most schools across the country. Music isn't offered as a subject in the curriculum in these schools. What's presently a part of a class is quite simply laughable. The importance of the arts is undervalued and often left out of dialogue. There are many talented and extremely competent young students who lack proper guidance and the opportunities to grow. There remains a severe dearth of a robust teaching module in place with a glaring paucity of music educators who are equipped to handle the situation.

The Solution:

It is evident that the 'big' change has to come from the top with special attention in altering the policies involving music education in schools across India. Along with a few passionate educators, musicians and visionaries, I've been involved advocating for change over the past few years. The change is rather slow yet promising.

We also hope to generate enough interest amongst the teaching community to become a part of professional networks like ISME so that they continue to have opportunities to network and grow their skill. We hope to be instrumental in getting together professionals from across the world and offer more training programs, conferences and workshops which will eventually raise the standard of music education in our country and the South Asian region that I'm actively involved in.