

11 Ways to Enrich your Instrumental Teaching by Caron Chan

Invest in and teach a wide variety of repertoire and studies

Set yourself repertoire goals such as teaching a new piece every term. Make sure to include Australian and contemporary repertoire.

Observe other teachers' lessons - and not just teachers of your own instrument.

Personally I love watching and have learned so much from seeing great cello teachers in action.

Attend masterclasses and professional development sessions on a regular basis

Join a professional body (AUSTA/ABODA etc)

Be organised and make a plan for each of your students

Set term/annual goals for each student. These goals can be based on technique, repertoire, performance skills. Students progress much faster when working towards clearly communicated and mutually agreed goals.

Stay musically inspired

Attend concerts (including non-classical concerts), play chamber music, join a community choir or orchestra if you don't currently play professionally.

Practice

Stay in good shape on your instrument so that you can demonstrate good technique and a beautiful sound for your students. Practising regularly gives you empathy with the journey that your students are on. Breakthroughs/discoveries made in your own practice can enrich your teaching.

Teach repertoire from the piano score (teach concertos from the orchestral score)

and ensure your students have access to regular rehearsals with excellent accompanists

Pay close attention to the physical set-up of each student, and cultivate a deep understanding of how to teach physically natural and relaxed movements

Learn about techniques that promote healthy movement and body awareness such as Alexander Technique and Feldenkrais.

Connect your students with other experts in the profession

Seek out opportunities for your students to have masterclasses and other learning opportunities with other great teachers and musicians of renown.

Seek out and create as many performance opportunities for your students as you

can Investigate whether your students can perform at school lunchtime concerts/local school fetes/church events/retirement villages/hospitals in addition to the studio concerts and competitive performance opportunities.