**Professional Development Assignment**

* 80- Hour Requirement: This teaching experience promotes an understanding of teaching-learning processes and to help prepare educators for their work with diverse learners. Future teachers must be familiar with the characteristics of learners from various cultural, social, and ethnic backgrounds. Over the summer of 2012, I was at Ward Melville High School in Long Island as teacher assistant. I helped out and observed the music classes including: bands, orchestras, theory, special educations and jazz. Through these two months volunteer experiences in education settings in public school’s classrooms; I really learned a lot just by observing how these teachers taught children and how they interact with students. Their passions for education and music influenced me as a future teacher.

The summer may be an easier time than during the traditional academic year to find courses to teach or to observe, because fewer regular faculty members are available at that time. I plan on fulfilling my 80- hour experience over the summer in 2013. I would find a school district that I am not familiar with because I would like to have an experience in a more diverse neighborhood.

* National Standards: There National Standards that I feel the most unprepared to teach are:

**Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines**: Composing music has been a trouble for me. I never compose songs during my free time, but I was often asked to compose in theory class. I thought the best way to make sure I get the most from my talents is to use them. I should write a piece of music every day. This doesn't need to be extravagant or even complete, rather just put my first thoughts down. Make composing part of my daily routine but not everything I do will be good, but the exercise will yield some bits and pieces that I may later turn into something special. Listening to music helps composing as well.

**Reading and notating music**: Sight read the music regularly. It is the only way to improve my sight reading skills. I would pick something short and easy to read first and something that isn’t very difficult. I would observe theory classes and bands to see how the teachers teach students to read music.

**Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music**: Singing alone is easy for me. However, singing with others is not. To improve my singing skills with a group of people would involve joining a choir and observe the teacher’s interaction with the singers.

### Professional Organizations: I would like to join the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). It is a nonprofit music-education organization and its purpose is to promote excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research, and teaching. ACDA also aim for arts support to raise choral music's position in America. The membership consists of choral directors who represent more than one million singers across the United States. The members teach choral music in public and private schools, from kindergarten through university levels. They conduct a variety of choral groups, including children's choirs, men's and women's choruses, ethnic choirs, vocal-jazz ensembles, and symphony choruses. They also conduct choirs in their communities and at churches. Joining ACDA would help me grow and broader my view as a teacher.

### Personal Musical Development: One of my musical goals is scales. I couldn’t play scales up to high C on the flute in the very beginning of this semester, however, after practicing every day, I can now play every major and minors (harmonic and melodic) scales up to high C and even D with quarter notes equal 100. Practicing scales is a really good way of training fingers and improving my strength, speed and dexterity and provides good practice when learning to improvise. Along with chromatics, scales are also really useful when used as warm up exercises. Every music teachers should be able to teach his or her students how to play scales well and regularly. I used to avoid playing scales, but now I understand, how important it is to relate to the actual piece of music that I am studying.

### Another musical goal is theory. To become a better musician, I need to be good at music theory. Music theory is important not on its own, but because it helps us as people understand and dissect the music. We are able to understand how music fits together and why music sounds the way they do. Learning music theory makes us more conscious, thoughtful, and musical performer. Every music teacher should be able to teach theory because it is an important part of learning the music.

### Personal Professional Development: One of my personal goals in becoming a professional educator is developing patience. Patience is the ability to tolerate waiting, delay, or frustration without becoming agitated or upset. It's the ability to be able to control my emotions or impulses and proceed calmly when faced with difficulties. This comes very important when being a teacher. I need to improve my patience when I am facing with every circumstance in daily life, especially when it comes to music. Teachers need to understand their students and need to do more than just show patience with students. They must understand them, too. Essentially, patience without understanding isn't patience at all, but an empty form of waiting.

### Another personal goal is to become more outgoing. My goal is to be very comfortable when around new people. I should attend more social gatherings and talk to people who I am not familiar with. This would improve my social skills as well as become outgoing. I noticed that being an outgoing teacher helps students to learn happier and faster. My flute professor now is a very energetic person. She is always cheerful and this makes her students cheerful as well.