

A Few Thoughts on Music & Language Acquisition

1. Our method is supported by language acquisition theory in that our students are learning language through a natural, musical process that involves meaningful interactions as opposed to formal grammatical instruction. They use the language for a purpose that is important to them. They are communicating what matters: who we are, what we believe, where we come from and our myriad of experiences.
2. It works best in a setting where self-correction or our inner monitor is not dominating. We can take risks and make mistakes. If too much emphasis is placed on perfection it could prevent learners from trying to speak at all. This can play into peoples' anxieties, stress, lack of self confidence and motivation. Students need a low anxiety, safe place to experiment with speaking.
3. Music can provide the atmosphere where guards are down and students feel comfortable; we have created a low intensity learning situation. In this setting we can provide language structures and phrases through the texts of songs that are naturally repeated to reinforce fluency with the help of rhythm and musical intonation. Music provides a fluid and enjoyable way to process language.
4. The process of song writing and singing, calls the left and right sides of the brain to work together tapping into both creative and logical thinking.