Increasing Active Engagement in Drumset Studies at the College Level Using Modern Resources and Technology

presenters:
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ADVOCATION/OPPORTUNITIES:
1) Introducing drumset early in the university/grade-school curriculum
2) Jazz Bands with multiple percussionists rotating on drumset
   a. Also allows for other percussionist to develop comping skills on vibraphone
   b. Prevents "starting from scratch" every four years
3) Creating small jazz combos from highly interested players
4) Playing in a faculty jazz combo for students (creating a culture)
5) Finding local church gigs for students to play at (regular and special occasion gigs)
6) Transcriptions of non-jazz standards for non-jazz students

RESOURCES/MATERIALS:
Groove Essentials 1.0 by Tommy Igoe:
- Great play-alongs with many different styles.
- Grooves have easy, medium, and challenging variations
- Cons: some of the grooves are too fast for many players (sambas, fast jazz, etc.)

The Jazz Drummers Reading Workbook by Tom Morgan:
- Excellent for training Big Band concepts
- Great play-alongs that have drumset in one ear and band in the other ear

Electronic Drumsets:
- Perfect for smaller studios
- Great for simultaneous students practicing
- Gives a great introduction to basics of working with technology
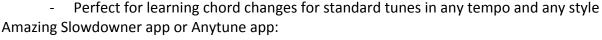- Cons: doesn't give a great sense of rebound/acoustic feel

Pandora/Spotify:
- Allows students to conveniently listen while traveling (between classes, driving, etc.)
- Gives students an opportunity to search/listen to iconic drummers (ex: Buddy Rich) and then get exposed to other drummers in a similar era/genre
- Cons: uses lots of data when not connected to wifi

APPS:

iReal Pro app:
- Perfect for learning chord changes for standard tunes in any tempo and any style

Amazing Slowdowner app or Anytune app:
- Fantastic, especially for connecting good practice habits from other areas of percussion (marching band, solo literature, etc.). Slow to Fast, ALWAYS!
- John Willmarth (Director at Summerville HS, SC) Bass Play-Alongs
  - https://www.dropbox.com/sh/djx57676r3hxiag/AAANi6X_fPdtQSiLHtQ-0Uwqa?dl=0

Drum Guru:
- High-level instructional video content from major artists
- Cons: very expensive to purchase videos

tDD Free (The Drum Dictionary):
- Good grooves with samples that can be used for beginning/intermediate drumset players
- Cons: rhythms are written in a hard-to-read way

Metronome-Replacement Apps:
- djembeföla! (African drum rhythms)
- iTabla Pro lite (Indian drum rhythms)

MISCELANEOUS:

Learning Styles; Not Just Grooves:
- Gridding basic styles
- Orchestrating styles/grooves to provide options

Group Drumming Sessions:
- 2 drummers trading solos/comping
- large group drumming sessions (community drumming w/ drumsets)

Social Media:
- Groups: Daily/Weekly videos featuring drummers: genres, historic, popular/underground, styles, groove vs soloistic, etc.

Local Selling Apps for Introductory Drumsets:
- Facebook Marketplace, LetGo, eBay, OfferUp, Decluttr, etc.
- Great for finding cheap, moderate-quality drumsets for students to aquire.

Hearing Protection - Utilizing earplugs/noise-reducing headphones
- Decreases ear fatigues -> increases mental focus
- Allows students to utilize play-along tracks without massive sound systems
- Bluetooth headphones make it possible to perform without annoying wires