



Teaching Artist Statement

Charley Caruso



Who am I?

My name is **Charley Caruso**. I grew up down south in Gelorup and then moved to Boorloo (Perth), Whadjuk Country in the Bibbulmun Nation.

I have always loved music, even when I was little I would sing in the car with my family and tell them the different parts to sing.

When I was a kid in primary school, a teacher lit my fire for music. She took us on an excursion to see an orchestra and asked me what instrument I would chose to play if I could choose any instrument at all. I said the drums!

I studied music in high school and auditioned and got a percussion scholarship. I sing, teach and make music - it's my passion.

What singing means to me

Singing helps you get in touch with who you are. Singing is a part of who you are.

Singing is important. It's part of learning and passing down stories.

Music is a universal language. It is everything. It provides a sense of belonging and healing. Music is ceremony. Music brings everyone together.



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Writing an Acknowledgement of Country song

Acknowledgement is a heavy subject. Students need to understand why it's important and what it means.

Before they write their song, they learn about the history of the place, and the culture. They learn that Aboriginal people have been here for thousands of years and that their culture is one of the oldest living cultures in the world.

White and non-aboriginal people are often acknowledged. An Acknowledgment of Country is to acknowledge Aboriginal people. Once kids grasp this concept and have this knowledge they come alive. They can then share their opinions and write and sing about it passionately.

Students learn about equity and equality and why it's important to give respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Charley's advice to students

Music gives you freedom and power. It can help you get through anything.

You can sing what you want and nothing is wrong.

Be bold and express yourself!

Charley's advice to teachers

If students want to create music about their own Country they should absolutely do that!

Talk to people who know the most about the land.

First start with the sounds of home e.g. tapping sticks are the instruments in Whadjuk Country.

Talk to Elders who speak the language. Language ties you to an entire culture.

