

Stephanie Chou - EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS and MASTERCLASSES

As a band and individually, we've presented masterclasses to groups of all ages. The engaging, interactive format includes discussion, performance, and audience participation. We've taught at colleges (Columbia University), high schools (Horace Mann School, Packer Collegiate) and cultural centers (China Institute of America). Individually, everyone is a committed educator with decades of teaching experience. Band members have delivered workshops in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Hebrew.

Our most widely-given workshop for all ages focuses on blending Asian culture with jazz; it incorporates our most widely-performed show with material from *Asymptote*, *Comfort Girl*, American Songbook jazz standards, and pop songs. All workshops are customized for the specific situation and audience.

Past workshop topics:

- Incorporating cultural/historical influences into music, music as social activism
- Introduction to Asian culture, traditional instruments, erhu demonstration (animal sounds)
- Global Sounds - introduction to Argentine, Chilean, Chinese, Israeli folk music and other world music, how they relate to jazz tradition
- Improvisation, composing, playing as a band, developing a personal artistic voice
- Bandleading, entrepreneurship, building sustainable artistic practices
- Women in music, female/AAPI representation in arts

Specialized Workshops:

Executive Education - Jazz Leadership

We've performed for many years as guest artists for executive education workshops on leadership and jazz with the Columbia University Business School, where audiences have included CEO's of publicly-traded international companies. These unique programs unpack the nuances of communication and creative collaboration through an exploration of improvisational jazz. We relate playing in a band to working in a professional setting. This interactive, entertaining, and practical session—part workshop, performance, and conversation— is perfect for groups of all kinds, from business meetings to hospital teams, education to social service, large organizations to intimate gatherings.

Intersections of Math and Music - *Stephanie was a mathematics major at Columbia University and tutored math to K-12 and college students for 12+ years*

An interactive discussion on the intersections between music and math, with a focus on harmonic structure, this session gives an introduction to set theory and tone rows, and the use of mathematics as a source of inspiration for composers in the past. We discuss how knots, braids, and other mathematical concepts form the musical underpinnings of my album *Prime Knot*. We give an introduction to musical set theory, tone rows, and relate musical "operations" to mathematical "formulas". Participants compose their own pieces; no math/music background required.

Professional Development for Musicians - *Example lecture, Stephanie spoke at the 2023 national Chamber Music America conference:*

Building Funder and Artists Relationships - Learn how to build relationships and successfully apply for grants that support tours, residencies, recording, compositions, and more. Communication and dialogue can help us co-create ways to serve audiences and the communities we work in.

Stephanie moderated a panel on Careers in Arts and Media at the 2023 OCA (Overseas Chinese Association) National Conference: Presentation on AAPI empowerment/careers in the arts, female and AAPI representation in media

Other topics available

Comfort Girl Educational Companion Workshop (usually done in conjunction with full performance or excerpts from *Comfort Girl*)

This can be customized to emphasize various topics, including: history of "comfort women", musical inspiration/creation of the piece, incorporation of survivor testimony, comfort women in arts and media today, etc. depending on the audience. It can be given by Steph alone or with the band, and/or with historians/music professors/other groups.

In the past we have done masterclasses in conjunction with a school's history department and music departments, so the format might include a history professor teaching about the history, a music professor talking about the music, and Steph/the band presenting info about the piece (inspiration behind piece, how to incorporate testimony, playing excerpts of recordings or live demonstration, etc). Audience Q&A is a big component of this workshop.

Example online presentation with a group at Yale University on "Representation of Comfort Women in Media and Art" from 2020: <https://youtu.be/ckuwx5kl1-k>
More resources: <http://www.stephaniechoumusic.com/learnmorecomfortwomen>

Individually, band members have different specialties and can lead workshops focused on different things: Andy specializes in chamber music, Jason specializes in piano improvisation; Matt specializes in upright/electric bass in jazz/songwriting settings; Ronen specializes in polyrhythmic techniques; Stephanie specializes in composing and voice.

We'd love to create workshops that focus on whatever is the best fit for the target audience, and will customize any workshop to incorporate the specific audience members in an interactive way.