



Christian Howes

*performer/educator*

## CREATIVE STRINGS RESIDENCIES

Through a combination of workshops, collaborative concerts, teacher training, and online curriculum, Christian visits dozens of school districts each year to provide students and teachers with lasting take-aways related to creativity, music theory, technology, and contemporary styles. Teachers receive sequential online curriculum prior to each event, and students participate in all workshops with instruments in hand. We welcome the opportunity to share powerful ideas with your students and we invite you to join us in creating an experience for your community which celebrates your music program.

**Residency Components:** Classroom Sessions, Collaborative Concerts, Teacher Training, Assemblies, Online Curriculum, Promotion and Funding.

### *Classroom Session One: Easy Tonal Improvisation with “Pachelbel Chord Stacks”*



Through a series of playing and reading exercises, students easily improvise, arrange, and compose melodies over familiar chord progressions in Bluegrass, Reggae, Jazz, Rock, Latin, and Classical styles. Basic music reading ability is required. [For a preview of this clinic click here.](#)

## *Classroom Session Two: Free Improvisation*



Free improvisation and composition is introduced through the imposition and gradual removal of constraints. Students of all levels compose in small groups using “composition games”. Students perform their own compositions individually as well as in small ensembles.

## *Classroom Session Three: Electric Strings, Effects, and Looping*



This session presents an overview of how to use electric strings, amplification, effects, and loops as a tool for teaching, practice, and performance. Gain insights into the basics of amplified technology, common pitfalls, and how to give your students practical approaches to apply in creative practice. [For a preview of the loop pedal in action click here.](#)

## *Classroom Session Four: Conducted Group Improvisation*



Using cue cards and hand signals, Christian conducts a large ensemble in guided improvisation. Using the “number system” and the “free note system”, students engage in call and response, “musical wrestling”, vamps, modal grooves, and much more, with a multitude of stylistic applications. Your students can even conduct the improvising ensemble.

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## *Other Residency Activities*

**Teacher Training:** Ask Tiffany at Goodman Artists to help find a sponsor to host a teacher training session during your residency - 773.283.2830/tiffany@goodmanartists.com

**Assembly Performance with Q&A:** Recommended for K-5, this (40-minute) entertaining solo show also provides an opportunity to recruit from your feeder program.

**Online Learning:** Yamaha generously sponsors three months of free access to Christian's popular "Creative Strings Academy" curriculum for participating schools. Students gain access to approximately 200 multimedia instructional resources including lesson plans, quizzes, and homework.

**Collaborative Performance:** Christian works with teachers to identify repertoire in advance, including an eclectic mix of contemporary musical styles. While the primary purpose of Christian's residencies are to give students educational takeaways in the classroom, a collaborative concert inspires students and community alike. We work with the teachers to ensure that the concert programming is balanced to feature students and guest artist(s).

**Music Business Lecture:** Recommended for college, "The Art of the Hustle" includes concrete tips, helping students self-promote, network, and become successful entrepreneurs in the music industry.

**Funding, Planning, and Promotion:** Christian's team works with you to aid in all aspects of the event, providing a full promotion packet. Interested in creative funding solutions? Contact Tiffany Goodman at Goodman Artists - 773.283.2830/[tiffany@goodmanartists.com](mailto:tiffany@goodmanartists.com)

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## *What Teachers Are Saying*

"Ravenscroft had a fabulous experience!... The event took on an even higher level of impact than was expected. I knew that Christian was going to work 'magic' but he took the student and faculty body by storm!" - **Dr. Pamela Kelly, Director of String Ensembles, Ravenscroft School (Raleigh, NC)**

"Christian's musical ability and creativity is of the highest caliber, and second to none in this genre. As a clinician and guest artist he is extremely accommodating as he brings the real world into the classroom." - **Mitchell Lutch, Director of Bands, Central College (Pella, IA)**

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To inquire, please contact: **Tiffany L. Goodman**  
[tiffany@goodmanartists.com](mailto:tiffany@goodmanartists.com) / 773.283.2830

*Creative Strings is operated through a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a mission to expand music education through residencies, an annual summer conference, and online curriculum.*

