

Lesson Plan (NEH, 2013)

Description:

Dr. Chad Hamill spoke about his book *Songs from Spirit: Power and Prayer in the Columbia Plateau*.

Native American students will research and perform contemporary chant for class and in a public concert. Students will look for spiritual connections in music. In both the "Introduction to Music" and "Chorus" classes, the theme of spiritual chant will be discussed throughout the year.

Objectives and Reflection: After completing assignment students were able to

- a) Perform/experience publicly music of indigenous cultures.
- b) Sing, speak and write about power of songs and the stories they tell.
- c) List and speak about impacts of discrimination.
- d) Studying and listening to Native American songs helped all to listen, sing and experience songs of spirit , prayer, and power among many cultures.

Assignment:

Native students will share and perform Native American song(s) for class and library performance for public. Describe piece to be performed. All students will be asked to write a paper about their experience.

Details:

Fall term 2013: A Native student in the chorus class sang a number of contemporary Native songs for the class and told us the meaning of them. She continued to sing throughout the semester for the class and performed in public at the Heritage Café. The similarities and dissimilarities of songs of other cultures were compared and sung in rehearsal and public. All students were asked to write about the experience.

The first written assignment for Chorus Class Spring term 2014 started with MLK Day where all chorus students were asked to attend program on campus. They were then asked to write a paper about it. Links were made later with MLK presentation to similar experiences shared among Hispanic, Native American and other cultures. This became a positive and lively class discussion and quite inspiring. All students turned in written reports.

March 2014: Another public choir concert with Native students again sharing a contemporary piece sung in traditional language. This piece was about the strength of women. Leading up to this she shared the song with several classes in performance.