

**9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.**  
**Session 1-1, Session 1-2, Session 1-3**

**Session 1-1 Harmonizing Education: The Role of Storytelling in Music and Performing**  
**Student Center Ballroom Section A**

**The Impact of Storytelling as a Pedagogical Tool in the Performing Arts and the Classroom**

*Dr. Tiffany Renée Jackson*

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Imagine a vocal lesson where scales and arpeggios are interwoven with personal stories, creating a space of trust and transformative learning. For over thirty years, I've discovered the secret ingredient to unlocking my students' potential: storytelling. Drawing on my extensive experience in applied voice and music curricula, and recent research in narrative pedagogy, this presentation explores the profound impact of storytelling on student learning and well-being. Storytelling humanizes the instructor, building credibility and fostering mentorship. When students understand the challenges I faced, they become more receptive to instruction and develop a deeper connection to the material, boosting knowledge acquisition and creative autonomy. This presentation will demonstrate how personal narratives reduce anxiety, encourage emotional expression, and cultivate a more engaging learning environment. My one-woman show, 'Rising of the Necessary Diva,' is not just a performance; it's a living embodiment of this pedagogical approach. By sharing my journey from the inner-city to Hampton University, I demonstrate the power of vulnerability and personal narrative to inspire students and unlock their potential. This presentation offers practical strategies for integrating storytelling into music education, promoting student engagement, and fostering a more supportive and transformative learning experience.

