Teaching Music to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder: An Introductory Course
October 13 and 14, 2018

Prevalence of autism spectrum disorder has steadily increased in recent years, and more music teachers are encountering students with autism in their studios or music classrooms. Research has shown that people with autism may process music differently than people without autism and that they have superior abilities in many areas of music learning and perception; however, unlocking that potential and helping students with autism navigate possible difficulties can be daunting. In this workshop, participants will start to understand how to approach teaching music to students with autism in a way that will make learning completely accessible to the student. The following topics will be discussed:

- Characteristics of autism spectrum disorder
- Music processing in people with autism
- Sensory challenges
- Learning profiles
- Evidence-based teaching strategies
- Dealing with challenging behaviours

Participants will explore strategies, educational models and activities that can be effective tools in helping students with autism reach their full potential in music learning.