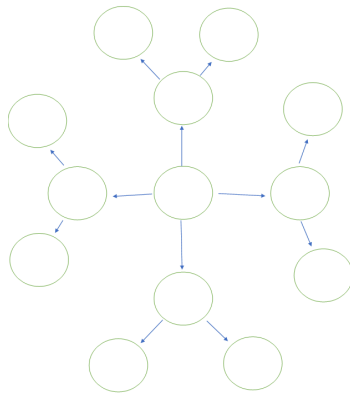Lesson 1

**Exploring and Expanding Personal Learning Networks**

Undergraduate Music Education Course                              Duration: 20 minutes

Lesson Goals: Students will learn about their existing Personal Learning Network (PLN)
                     Students will consider how using online tools can expand PLNs



PLN Template 1

Preparation:
Using the provided template create a handout for each student that has the template on both sides of the page. Ensure each circle is large enough to write a name inside.

Tasks:
1.  Introduce the definition of a Personal Learning Network (PLN), and show an empty PLN template on the board or screen.
2.  The instructor should write their name in the center circle on the screen, then have students do the same on their worksheet.
3.  In the adjoining primary circles students will write the names of people they've learned from that they could call upon to help them with music education related concerns.
4.  In the secondary circles students will write the names of the people who influenced the people in their primary circles.
5.  Call up four students and include their name in one of the instructor's empty PLN primary circles on the screen or board.
6.  The instructor can now show how their PLN has expanded to include the students' PLNs to create a Personal Learning Community (PLC).

7. Ask students to discuss how their PLC can be expanded by including the online community. Students should share different tools they use online that help them find answers to problems their PLCs may not be able to.

## Definitions:

Personal Learning Network: A personal learning network is an informal learning network that consists of the people a learner interacts with and derives knowledge from in a personal learning environment. In a PLN, a person makes a connection with another person with the specific intent that some type of learning will occur because of that connection.[1]

Personal Learning Community: A professional learning community (PLC) is a method to foster collaborative learning among colleagues within a particular work environment or field. It is often used in schools as a way to organize teachers into working groups of practice-based professional learning.[2]

## Further Readings:

Marín, V., Negre, F., & Pérez, A. (2014). Construction of the foundations of the PLE and PLN for collaborative learning. *Comunicar*, *21*(42), 35–43.

Greenhow, C., & Lewin, C. (2016). Social media and education: Reconceptualizing the boundaries of formal and informal learning. *Learning and Media Technology, 41*(1), 6-30.

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[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_learning_network
[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_learning_community