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Interconnected Pathways on YouTube and Music Education: YouTubers and Their Stories

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Donna Janowski

In 2013, I met John Valadez, a documentary filmmaker. On a trip, he met some people who made a campfire, sat in a circle, and told stories all night. John realized that we, as human beings, carry on this tradition—with or without the campfire. We go to the movies to listen to a story. We watch television shows to learn, laugh, and grow with our favorite characters. We visit YouTube to engage with stories in numerous ways. These are modern versions of storytelling, but it is storytelling, nonetheless.

This research will explore forms of musicking—beyond the realms of performance and composition—through collaborations with YouTubers. The framework of narrative inquiry will encompass three different pathways—storytelling, participatory culture, and reflective and reflexive practice. By engaging with YouTube and individual creators, new stories, perspectives, and ideas will surely emerge. I will be waiting around the campfire, ready to listen.

Additional file: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM9wWUjGI 8