



Fellow Educator,

A few years ago, I made a discovery while I was teaching Social Studies at a high school in upstate New York. One day, I happened upon Pedro, one of my students, rapping for his friends in the hallway. Pedro was a very likable young man who retained virtually nothing in US History class, or so his consistently dismal test scores indicated. At that moment, though, I watched in amazement as he entertained the group assembled around him with an inspired performance of a hip-hop epic. By the end, he had delivered a huge body of information without missing a syllable.

I wondered if Pedro's hidden memorization skills had emerged because he was reciting information set to music he enjoyed. I began to look for a way to use this discovery in the classroom. An exhaustive search revealed that almost all-educational music is geared toward elementary school children. Next to no music with academic content is available for young adults in middle school and high school. Ironically, this is the time when many people develop a life-long passion for music. I realized then that there is a need for educational music that is hip (if not hip-hop), academically serious, and consistent with state curriculum standards. Together with a collaborative group of educators and artists, I created MME to fulfill this need.

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