

Student-Musician Thoughts on Immersive Rehearsals

Survey Question:

Please Describe What You Believe An "Immersive Rehearsal" Entails.

Student Response Highlights:

1. "I believe an immersive rehearsal consists of both playing the music assigned, as well as truly understanding the history and motive the composer had in mind. I believe that it includes the individual stylistic choices of both the conductor and instrumentalists in addition to this."
2. "I think an immersive rehearsal requires an engaged director who is conducting even if a metronome is going. Unfortunately, my director doesn't conduct much, so when he does, he just ends up being a metronome instead of a person to whom we can look for style and dynamics. It also requires being able to dive deep into the music rather than just focusing on rhythms and notes."
3. "A rehearsal where the musician has an opinion on artistic details."



4. "I believe an "immersive rehearsal" entails a rehearsal where musicians really get to dive extremely deep into a particular literature. Perhaps musicians learn about the historical and musical context of a piece, and then bring that knowledge into playing the actual piece."

5. "It's a session in which everyone is super-focused every single rehearsal, something that is reinforced by a very expressive conductor that everyone can follow easily. The music is also always compelling. Even if it isn't interesting to listen to initially, knowing the story behind the piece and seeing the emotional expression of the conductor always makes it interesting in the end."

6. "An immersive rehearsal is when we can have rehearsals as an ensemble where everyone is brought in at all times and has a clear understanding of what is being asked, but also staying engaged with what is happening within the music. Another key factor in having an immersive rehearsal is learning what the music you are playing is about and getting to learn about the deeper meaning behind certain pieces."



7. “An immersive rehearsal allows for everyone in the ensemble to interact with one another and connect physically, emotionally, and musically to the music you are playing.”
8. “An immersive rehearsal, compared with a normal one, really leaves the student with something new. This may be a piece of musical advice about interpretation, or the instrument. Immersive rehearsals serve not only to make the music better, but to make the individual a better musician.”
9. “It would help if we played more and allowed the students to form their own opinions about the music instead of using time to explain one single view of the repertoire.”

