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INTENTIONS

Through this trip, I planned to increase my pedagogical musical repertoire with, and pedagogical empathy for, English Language Learners. I found that, in addition to achieving this goal, I developed my teacher-voice and developed a greater confidence in teaching while abroad. The excitement from the 4 to 10-year-olds inspired me to imagine and create authentic lesson plans. Our language barrier did not discourage me; I found music to be a perfect medium to exchange learning content at every grade level.

AWAKENINGS

I left a week before the group to visit Austria. Solo travel quickly showed me that the world is so much larger - and its cultural differences much more expansive - than I ever imagined. One similarity I found with Italy and Austria was how quick people were to offer help. I absolutely fell in love with both countries and was struck by the generosity of European people. My interactions led me to experience a culture-shock about their kindness. The diversity of Italian culture was apparent in every city and town we traveled to; IPDS allowed me to experience many authentic customs and lifestyles! This cultural experience challenged my views on education, cultural diversity, and life in general, and I feel like a better person after my time abroad.



FAVORITE MEMORIES

- Arriving at the school where the faculty & students performed both of our national anthems.
- Touring a buffalo mozzarella farm, olive oil producing farm, and two wineries -- the main economy sources for Torremaggiore.
- Our day at the Isle of Capri -- the most beautiful place I have ever been.
- Celebrating New Years Eve in Vienna!
- Dancing with newly found friends at a winery in San Severo.

