

Fourth VOICES Conference On Teaching STEM With Song

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Fourth VOICES Conference On Teaching STEM With Song

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The fourth VOICES (Virtual Ongoing Interdisciplinary Collaborations on Educating with Song) conference will be held September 26, 2021, with its Sunday date especially targeting those whose teaching schedule precludes attendance on a weekday. This online-only conference explores the use of song to teach STEM content at the college or secondary school level and will include reviewed interactive sessions, video-posters, and discussions of interest to both practitioners and researchers.

The use of song or songwriting can be a powerful strategy for learning content for many reasons, such as its community-building appeal to emotion and its capacity to synthesize and present information in concise memorable form (see, for example, <http://singaboutscience.org/wp/educating/research/> and <https://www.causeweb.org/voices/resources/teaching>). The fourth annual VOICES (Virtual Ongoing Interdisciplinary Collaborations on Educating with Song) conference is an ideal place to join the conversation!

This first-of-its-kind conference series explores the use of song to teach STEM content at the college or high school level and will include many reviewed interactive sessions, video-posters, and discussions of interest to both practitioners and researchers. Examples of topics from past conferences include research/theory, song parodies, music videos, informal learning and outreach, STEM songwriting, and student songwriting. As was the case with previous VOICES conferences, it is expected that almost all presentations will apply to all STEM disciplines (and beyond). In these previous conferences, participants have come from about half the states of the US as well as from Canada, the United Kingdom, and The Netherlands, spanning all major STEM fields, as well as Education, English, Media & Information, and Performing Arts. The most recent conference was featured in *Forbes* [1].

Chaired by Dennis Pearl and Larry Lesser (voices2021@causeweb.org), this year's conference includes a keynote presentation by Raven Baxter, an award-winning and internationally acclaimed science educator and molecular biologist who works to progress science culture by creating spaces that are inclusive, educational, and real. Also known as Raven the Science Maven (<https://www.scimaven.com/>), Baxter is an entertainer and content creator known for her unique style of combining science and music that teaches and empowers those in STEM and beyond. Raven speaks about innovation in science education and social change in STEM. She completed a doctorate in science education in May 2021.

Raven is the founder of Science Haven, an organization that operates at the intersections of science, education, and the public. Science Haven houses STEM-bassy (<https://www.stembassy.org/>), a live web series that connects the public with science and technology professionals, and Black In Science Communication (<https://www.blackincomm.com/>), a group that works to build relationships in the science community, equipping others with the knowledge and resources necessary to share science with the world in their own flavor. Raven has quickly developed a reputation as a strong voice in science and been recognized as a global influencer in several publications, including *Fortune Magazine* (see <https://fortune.com/40-under-40/2020/raven-baxter/>). Raven has also earned the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence in honor of her service in educating the public about COVID-19.

The conference also includes a featured presentation by scholar and entrepreneur Lana Israel, the founder of Muzology (<https://www.muzology.com/about/>).

Presentations will be live-streamed and then archived for future access. Registration is required at

<https://www.CAUSEweb.org/voices/2021/register>,

but there is no fee this year. For full consideration, presentation proposals were due by July 1 at

<https://www.CAUSEweb.org/voices/2021/proposals>,

but later submissions may still be considered as space and time allow. Those considering attending or presenting may draw inspiration by browsing the approximately 100 different presentations from the 2017, 2018, and 2019 conferences archived at

<https://www.CAUSEweb.org/voices>.

(see [2, 3] for announcements of some of these conferences).

VOICES was launched with the support of a supplement to a 2015-2020 National Science Foundation DUE EHR grant (Project SMILES: Student-Made Interactive Learning with Educational Songs in Introductory Statistics, <https://www.CAUSEweb.org/smiles/>) whose PIs were Dennis Pearl (Penn State), Lawrence Lesser (The University of Texas at El Paso), and John Weber (Perimeter College at Georgia State University).

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