

Proposal

Title – Knowing Through Creating: The Role of Songwriting in Creative and Artistic Research. “Stories from the VA”

Program of Study – Music (Artist Development)

Presentation Type – PowerPoint/ Oral Presentation

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Category – Creative and Artistic

Abstract

Despite some efforts to portray veteran experiences and struggles, the perspectives of most United States soldiers who served in the Middle East have yet to be accurately expressed to the public. The untold stories of these brave men and women matter because our veterans deserve to be heard, understood, and treated well in our communities. This study recovers the perspectives of veterans who risked their lives in the Middle East. Guided by Eisner’s model of arts-based research, this qualitative artistic creative research study identifies perspectives that have not yet been explored and

documented creatively concerning the lives of American soldiers before, during, and after deployment in the Middle East. Perspectives on traumatic stress, coping methods, and the journey of being reintroduced into civilian life have emerged as themes through exploration of a small body of existing literature and personal interviews with participants who served in the Middle East. To illustrate these emerging themes I have created a song cycle of four songs that depicts a collection of otherwise untold stories. This creative product of research is important to our culture because it may help remove barriers between civilians and veterans and bring understanding to the needs of veterans. Further, this understanding could be useful in the fields of psychology, music therapy, and counseling. The pioneer field of creative artistic research is just now being integrated into the academy as a valid research model. This project will serve as an example of the intersection of the songwriting process and creative artistic research; as the role of songwriting in this young field of research

is to tell the stories recovered through the research process. (272

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