

Juliana Cantarelli Vita is a music faculty at The Bush School in Seattle, Washington. She earned a Ph.D. in music education with an emphasis in ethnomusicology at the University of Washington. She has actively been a part of the Smithsonian Folkways Certificate Course in World Music Pedagogy at West Virginia University, the University of Washington, and directed the course at University of Hartford's Hartt School. Blending her interests in music education and ethnomusicology, she has published on children's community of music practice within Afro-Brazilian drumming traditions in the Oxford Handbook of Early Music Learning and Development as well as in the Decolonizing the Music Room, community music-making during the COVID-19 pandemic in the International Journal of Community Music, World Music Pedagogy in the Malaysian Journal of Music and The Orff Echo, feminist spaces for music-making as well as family-music making in the Journal of Popular Music Education, and critical consciousness and collective songwriting with Indigenous Yakama youth in the Journal of Folklore and Education. Other works in progress reflect her continuing commitment to equity, justice, and cultural awareness in classrooms and communities in the U.S. and in the world.

Invitations to share her work have come in the form of keynote addresses at conferences in the U.S., Brazil, and Portugal, professional development workshops, as well as in multi-departmental (ethnomusicology/music education) residencies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2019) and at the University of Kentucky (2022). In 2021, she was awarded the Elizabeth May (Slater) Award from the Society for Ethnomusicology. She has served on the Editorial Board of The Orff Echo journal and has served as co-chair of the Education Section of the Society for Ethnomusicology. Currently, she is part of the advisory board of the Alliance for Active Music Making. Her voice and work can also be found in streaming platforms as she is the co-host and co-producer of the podcast Massa: Brazilian Music and Culture. Also at the core of her efforts are nonprofit organizations furthering the access to creative music-making for people of all ages, as Juliana has been involved with the Seattle-based organizations Rain City Rock Camp and Honk!Fest West since 2018 as performer, volunteer, and coordinator. As an active musician, she is the co-founder and director of Maracatu Baque Maré and performs regularly with her bands Som da Massa and Cria. When not making music or teaching or writing, Juliana enjoys spending time in the wild paddle boarding, biking, hiking, and snowboarding.