

# UNMUTED: Adaptive Music Education for an Inclusive Future

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## Why Does It Matter?

Students with physical disabilities frequently encounter barriers in music education due to instrument designs that assume full strength, stability, and the use of both hands and arms.

## The Need

- 1.8% of children live with a physical disability.
- ~23,500 students in Wisconsin have these barriers
- On average there are 9 students per school with a physical disability

## Belief vs Practice

There is a clear gap between belief and practice: 85% of educators value music education for students with disabilities, yet only 26% report successfully including one in their program.

## The Barriers

- Limited availability: Few makers produce adaptive instruments.
- High cost: Custom builds drive prices up.
- Example: A one-handed clarinet can cost about \$7,000.
- School barrier: Most schools cannot afford to provide them.

**Adaptive tools are not extras. They are pathways.**

## Using Technology



Technology helps remove barriers to participation, enabling students with physical disabilities to play instruments and engage fully in music. Shown here is a saxophone fitted with solenoids by Simon Moxon.

## One Handed Musical Instruments



Adaptive versions of many traditional instruments already exist. Shown here is a one-handed clarinet by Peter Worrell along with a supportive stand that helps bear the instrument's weight.