

Hearing Conservation in the Music Industry, *S. Benjamin Kanters, Associate Professor & Associate Chair, Audio Arts & Acoustics, Columbia College Chicago, founder, HearTomorrow.Org*

With the increasing incidence of noise-induced hearing disorders, particularly from entertainment venues and media, it is critical to begin addressing hearing awareness with students and professionals in music and audio engineering.

This presentation will provide an overview of the techniques employed in *The Hearing Conservation Workshop* to promote hearing awareness. Understanding how musicians and audio engineers work with and think about music and sound, the Workshop utilizes a new set of “tools” for teaching hearing physiology, disorders and conservation to this important cohort.

The success of The Workshop (60 since 2008) has proven that, once taught how hearing works (and breaks), musicians and engineers develop a sense of “ownership” of their ears and become concerned about their own hearing health. They are then in a unique position to be role models of hearing awareness to their clients and the music-listening public.