

Amanda Lautenbach
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Dr. Liske
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Philosophy of Music Education

As a person experiences life, music will be there no matter how many things come and go. There is no escaping it. It is always there and I find myself turning to it in all types of situations to find my center again and sometimes, it's the only thing that can help me make it through the day.

Since everyone is unique, we must realize that not all people will be affected by music in the same way. Some people will excel in sports, some in art, and some in science. The list goes on and on but even if these people will not end up to be great musicians, they do have the ability to appreciate music because it is so universal.

Music has no barriers. It does not discriminate against anyone. Everyone, everywhere, despite language differences, has the power to share music with others different than them and have them understand.

A story that I found very inspiring was that of a little girl in my hometown. As a part of my high school music theory class, I had the opportunity to visit one of my local elementary schools and see one of their assemblies. My school's drum line accompanied us there and did several cadences for the children. All of the students' faces lit up when they saw us there and it gave us a sense of accomplishment. After the program, one of the elementary teachers took my theory teacher aside, crying, and gave her a hug. She told her that one of the little girls there that day was deaf and had never responded to any type of music before and today, she began keeping the beat on her leg all by herself because she could feel the vibrations in the gym floor.

I found this to be a very inspiring story because it is an example of how non-discriminatory music is. Somehow, music can reach anyone willing to “listen”.

Music education is very important. If I hadn't been taught music at all in school, I don't believe that I would have as much of an appreciation for it as I do and I think the same would go for most people.

When students are involved with choirs, bands, or orchestras in school, it can teach them things outside of just music. It can teach acceptance, discipline, responsibility, and people skills as well as many other things.

Also, music will be with the child for the rest of their life, so why *not* learn something about it?

Since America is becoming more and more diverse, we must keep in mind that these students deserve an excellent musical education also. Thus, we must incorporate different styles and periods of music from our own history along with music from many different cultures.

Because music has changed so much over the years, there are different things to be learned from each new style and era. For example, students will not necessarily learn the same things from a classical piece as they would from a rock and roll song although both are equally important in learning the evolution of music.

All students should have the opportunity to learn music no matter their background, race, or religion. If a student is willing to learn, they should be able to. Everyone has the need to express themselves creatively and music is one very positive creative outlet. Although students can do this without any education in music, music

education can open up new doors for a child that they never would have dreamed possible.

Being a music teacher takes a certain type of person. They must be dedicated to their craft and have a genuine love for music. Also, they must be open to different ideas and perspectives than their own. They must have good communication skills and be able to connect with their students through music. They must also realize that one does not become an excellent music teacher overnight. It takes a lot of patience and hard work but the end result is not something that can be found anywhere else.

In conclusion, music is, plain and simple, a part of everyone's life whether they realize it or not. Music education is there to open new doors to those children and adults who are willing to learn more about the art of music. Everyone has the ability to further understand and love music if given the correct opportunities and the right teachers. By striving to be an excellent music educator, I hope I can be an inspiration to all of my future students and show them my own love of music.