

Music 386

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Philosophy of Music Education

Music is everywhere, and in every part of life. Everyone everywhere has contact with music from shortly after birth until the end of their life. Because everyone has exposure and access to music everyone should also have access to music education so they can appreciate what they are hearing for what it is. Music is also a form of expression for most people, but many people would not be as able to express themselves through music if music education was not offered to them. Music education should also expose students to as many styles and musical cultures as possible.

There are many styles and musical cultures in the world and a student being taught music should be exposed to as many styles of music as possible. A student's musical education shouldn't be limited to western music. Western music makes up only a fraction of the music that exists in the world and students should have access to as much music as possible.

Music is present in every corner of the globe, and music should then be taught to everyone who has access to any of this music. The mission statement for The National Association for Music Education is, "The mission of MENC: The National Association for Music Education is to advance music education by encouraging the study and making of music by all." Music can teach people some things that are difficult to learn in other subjects, things like

teamwork (needed for ensemble playing), and self discipline (needed for practicing and learning fundamentals of music). These skills are very important for a person in the work force to have. If one doesn't have good teamwork skills then that person will have a very hard time working in most places. A good teacher will be able to teach his or her students these skills effectively.

It takes certain skills to be a music teacher. A music teacher needs to know the fundamentals of all instruments and how to teach these fundamentals to any student who wants to learn regardless of special needs that a student may have. A teacher needs to be willing to put in extra time to help a struggling student or a student who needs special or individualized attention to learn the music. A music teacher needs to be able to make music fun. Music needs to be fun and playful, but it also needs to be engaging and educational. A good teacher will be able to find the balance between fun and education to make sure the students learn as much as possible.

Music is everywhere and in every part of life, there is no escaping that fact. Students have the right to learn as much as they want about whatever they want, whether that is music, Spanish, or cooking, all students deserve the chance to learn as much as they can. Music programs are being cut everywhere because of budget cuts, but this is making it difficult for many students to get a well rounded education of which music is an essential part. Music needs to be offered to every student and every student should have the opportunity to learn as much as they can whenever they can.