

My Philosophy of Music Education

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The first question that we are addressing is why music is important in life. I believe that music is very important in life because it makes a person well-rounded. Music is a huge part of everyone's life, even if they don't realize it. If you ever just step outside in summer and listen to all the sounds, that could be construed as music. Or someone like me, if I'm waiting for the elevator, I will harmonize to the tone of it. Not everyone has to be that geeky, but even if someone understands that the sound of something has a certain tone, or that it sounds different than a doorbell ring, they already would have a heightened sense when walking somewhere because they would be listening for different sounds.

Many times we hear the phrase -stop to smell the roses- but what about listen to the wind? or the birds? Wouldn't those sound good also, because even if you can't see them, you are still hearing the pleasant noise that they bring us. People today all walk with IPODS attached to them, or a cell phone plastered to their face. If they would take the time to listen for some other sounds, instead of blaring music straight to their brain, it would make their hearing better also. Studies have shown that listening to IPODS past a certain point for more than about 10 minutes can make a person have more hearing problems at a younger age. If even once a day, you take the time to strain your hearing for a tiny sound, you will be better off. It gives your ears a break from the bass or high pitched sounds normally heard through an IPOD.

Music should be taught in school to reinforce these points. If at a young age, children are taught to pay attention to small sounds, they will be more receptive as adults. They will also be better listeners because they will catch small changes that could make a difference betwixt what someone is saying vs. what they mean. As a child, if you are exposed to many different styles of music, you will be more commutative and more open to knew ideas. Your mind will be broader because you will understand that not every type of music is the same. Knowing that, you can apply that to people. Everyone has a different personality. Children have more sensitive ears than adults, so if you play a Baroque style piece followed by an African trilogy, children will hear something different than adults. If you teach a child about many different styles, they will be better at problem-solving because they will look at the big picture instead of everything individually. They will have a different way of looking at situations than people that weren't exposed to music.

All different types of music should be exposed in school settings. Like I said previously, all music styles are different. If a child is only exposed to 1 or 2 styles, they may not be as likely to respect or understand more music. People don't like change, so if you give them many different pieces, they will hear it all and not think of anything new as change. They may not like it all the same, but they won't be as quick to dismiss something else as fast either. Every piece of music has something to teach us. We have to look for it, but there is always something new in a piece of music. By hearing one piece, it may help us understand another piece even better, because we can compare them to each other and figure out similarities and differences. We have to analyze each piece to a certain extent to understand it and learn the importances.

EVERYONE SHOULD LEARN MUSIC! There is no reason that someone should get out of learning general music. All people benefit from learning something about music. It broadens your senses and gives you a more well-rounded personality. If you can understand something about music, you will hear it differently. If you're listening to the radio and don't know anything about music, it's just a tune that is playing. If you know something about music, you can understand the intervals used, and why a person would feel good after listening to that particular piece. I LOVE CHEESE! You learn how pieces appeal to the senses, along with learning why certain pieces may just not be the best piece to listen to. If you are a musician, think about this for a moment. When you walk, do you walk to the beat of a song that you hear? I know that I do. It is very common, because we have been so involved with music, that we feel the need to stay with the beat that we hear, and possibly get upset when others are not walking at the same beat as you. Also, when you hear a certain song, are you trying to figure out how you would play that on the piano, or another instrument of choice? If you didn't know anything about music, you would be missing out on why pieces make us act this way. We are so immersed in music, that we can make music out of anything. People that don't know about music, may look at us like we're crazy, but we know what we're trying to accomplish. There are so many wonderful aspects about music that everyone should get a sip of what we are about. If everyone can learn something about music, communication will be easier, because everything is easier to express in song than just speaking. You use different techniques or choice of words in song than in regular conversation. Music makes people happy, so why shouldn't they understand why this is. If they learn about even the fundamentals, they will be able to listen differently.

People that should teach.... That is a very broad question. Compassion and understanding are obviously two of the main points needed. A teacher has to understand what they are teaching. Obviously, you wouldn't send a business

major in to teach time signatures. Teachers must know how to teach their audience, for example they would have different methods for teaching an adult vs. teaching a six year old. They also need to understand emotion. If they try to push a student to fast, that could pose problems because a child may not be able to comprehend as fast as someone else. Everyone has a different way of learning. Teachers must adapt to each student's learning habits. The language used for each student may vary also. They must use simple words that everyone can understand, or at least explain to quizzical looks that they would receive from students.