

## **Philosophy of Music Education**

Jacob Kulba, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Music. According to Webster's music is "the science or art of ordering tones or sounds in succession, in combination, and in temporal relationships to produce a composition having unity and continuity." This definition of music is right in every respect. Music is an art form that requires tones and pitches to make in to music. Music however is something that is much more than just the productions of sounds and pitches. Music is a way of life and should be shared with all people.

With out music in our everyday life we would have a very boring life. Just imagine waking up every morning to that annoying buzz or beep of the alarm clock. Yes, this might send chills down your spine but it is now possible to wake up to a song or favorite tune. With out music, life would be boring and pointless compared to what there is today. When one drives to work in the morning, there are always several channels to listen to in the car or several CDs as well. Music is the way humans keep life interesting and worth while.

Not only does music keep life interesting, it also entertains the human mind and spirit. With music one is able to express their own feelings and beliefs in a much more intimate way. Music is a driving force in the world for expression and creativity and with out music the power of imagination and creativity can not be harnessed. Imagination is the reason why there are the many great paintings, buildings, compositions, theatrical productions and many other great things. Music is one of the many leading factors that gives that inspiration for our imagination. This is why music is so important to our lives.

Music is not only important in everyday life but it is also very important in our schools as well. Musicians start all from the same age group, students. The great musicians did not become

who they are over night. They had to learn about music and how to make it. With out these valuable lessons learned in the schools, the world might not see another great composer like Mozart, Bach or even John Williams. Composing is only one part of music though, the great musicians across the world will all agree that they would not be where they are with out the teachers and schools, they would not be where they are. Not only should music be taught in the schools for musical reasons but it should also be taught there so that it gives students creativity for their other classes. It is said that music gives the students a way to express themselves. Music can help one express thoughts on paper as well. Music is a tool and should be used in all schools across the nation.

Not only is the fact that music in the school is important but also the music that is taught has an important factor on the music. If one were to teach music to students that was hip and trendy but never played the classics then students would not learn an appreciation for the past. It goes both ways. If one were to teach just the classics then students would be ill-literate to the new music that is being made today. Music educators need to have a balance of music so that students learn the past and should also keep in the newer music so students know what is going around them in the musical world. This creates a respect for what was done and also what is new.

Music in the schools should be learned by all students at all levels through all grades. This practice should start in the kindergarten and continue through senior year of high school. Each student should be exposed to all different forms of music. In the elementary schools, students should have general music and start to learn the instruments. Students should also, as part of this general music class learn how to find there way around the piano. This is a skill that all students should be required to fill though the middle school level. Once students are out of

elementary school they then need to keep in a music class. It could be band, choir, or orchestra. It could also be a general music class, or piano class but all students still need music through middle school. In high school students should be given the option to specialize their music by choosing either appreciation courses or musical theater or a music class but they must keep it up. Students should not be the only ones who learn in the schools either. Community members should be able to use the public school music program to help them in learning as well. Community members should have the option to sign up for music classes and should interact with the students. This interaction is what communities need to see that students are not hoodlums and it also helps communities grow in ways that can not be imagined.

With the community involvement in music programs, it is important that there be music teachers to guide and mold the educational path on which students will learn. The teacher should be the deciding voice and the authoritarian figure in the music program. The teacher should not be the only one who teaches. The day that one does not learn is a wasted day and that means that students and teachers alike need to be learning and teaching every day. Students need to learn the material and the music presented by the music teacher. Teachers need to learn from how the students react and should always look for new ways to teach something. If it's not working the way they want it to, they need to just ask what the students think and learn from what they have to say. Teaching is a learning profession. In the end of it all, teaching students how to play notes on a page may have met the requirements set down by the principal or the school board but it's not always about notes, it's about how passionate that student becomes of music. That is what music educators are for. To create the everlasting passion for music.