

Philosophy of Music Education

Music, to me, is an important part of life because along with the myriad musical benefits that it offers, there are countless non-musical benefits that can be learned from music. In the classroom, music presents the majority of its musical benefits through rehearsals and through listening. Outside the classroom, however, is where the majority of the non-musical benefits can be witnessed. By practicing outside of class students learn self-discipline by making a point of practicing, even if they really don't feel like it at the time. Students that practice regularly are also more organized and have better time management skills than those students that choose not to practice on a regular basis because they keep track of what they need to practice and for how long it should be practiced. Music is not only great to listen to, but it is also a crucial part of a well rounded education and a priceless asset that can be carried throughout a lifetime; and it is due to these reasons that contrary to the growing opinion of school districts around the nation, I firmly believe that Music Education is in no way, shape, or form, expendable.

I believe that music should be taught in every school around the world because unlike Latin, French, or any other language, music can be understood by everyone. It doesn't matter how old or young you are, how big or small you might be, or what ethnic background you come from because music is everywhere and it does not play favorites. From the howling of the wind to the chaos of a busy factory, music can be found everywhere. All you have to do is listen. Of the five senses that the human body has been endowed with it would be a shame not to use the most important one, listening, properly and miss out on what life truly has to offer. That is why music education is so important,

by broadening people's horizons through listening, we as music educators can give them the gift that keeps on giving, the gift of music.

As a French hornist I am a big fan of music that is written for a strong, booming brass section. But as a future music educator I also realize that it is important to teach forms of music from all around the world. Many students fail to realize that music wasn't only created by Mozart, Bach, or Beethoven. They have only heard classical music from those composers because they are more of a popular selection than the rest. That is why it is essential that music from all ends of the earth be taught in schools. If students are able to understand the cultures of different nations through their music, then it would be a shame not to broaden their horizons by only teaching Sousa marches and the more popular music.

Every single person that is enrolled at a school should learn some type of music. In elementary school it is crucial that students learn music because it is easier for them to learn it as a child than it is in later years. Also, elementary students should all learn music because it requires them to use both sides of the brain. By requiring elementary students to use both sides of their brain, music facilitates their mental development in ways that math, science, and English can not. Research also shows that by studying music, children score higher on standardized tests and are more attentive and perceptive in the classroom. By having all students study music in schools they will be more capable of getting accepted into universities that they could not have with lower standardized test scores.

A music educator should be able to relate, in some way or another, to the age group that they are teaching. For instance, it takes a very special and dedicated individual to teach middle school music because the students are at the age when they think that

nobody can be the boss of them and nobody other than themselves knows what is right and good for their well being. In this case, the teacher has to be more of an authoritative figure to their students because of their lack of self-discipline. On the other hand, a college professor has a lot more leeway on what he/she can do in the classroom. The students are behaved much better than middle and high school students, and they are also all adults so there again is more liberty on both the professor's and the student's parts. The professor still has to act as a disciplinarian when the occasion arises, but it is far less common than in a pre-college setting. Anyone that appreciates music enough to go out and get a degree in it, is responsible enough to know when discipline is needed in the classroom, and is able to relate to the age group that they are teaching, deserves to be and should be a music teacher.