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Intro to Music Ed  
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Music Education Philosophy

When the subject of music education comes up, whether it be in a simple discussion or at a school board meeting, it can be hard to define the practical implications of such an aesthetic subject. The fact is, it's partly because of the aesthetic qualities associated with it that makes it such an important aspect of life and why it's an important area of study. It can also be difficult to reach all students with the meaning of music. That can be alleviated by presenting different types of music, along with having a teacher that is passionate about their work.

Music has many reasons for being important in one's life. One of the most obvious is that it is a form of communication. Although it may seem less important than other forms such as speech and writing, music is unique in its own way, because it doesn't have the limitations that other methods of communication have. Music, for the most part, is a free style that expresses emotion and can really open a window to the soul of the composer and/or performer. It can also be interpreted in different ways, depending on the person, which gives any given piece more than one specific meaning.

The unique communication aspects of music is one contributing factor to why music should be taught in schools. Music pervades many aspects of life. Without some knowledge of the power and meaning of music, as adults, children will be unable to understand the music around them. Imagine someone trying to make it through life without being able to speak more than a few words, they would be pretty lost in today's society. Although maybe not as important as spoken word, it still is a necessity that isn't always looked as such because it isn't, those should go into high school, but maybe not completely through. I think that students not completely interested in music might become more interested if a high school class was required because there is a certain maturity and level of thinking needed to understand some of the more intriguing aspects of music, especially the emotional complexities of music. General music classes need to keep the students interested by not focusing on any one genre of music. It needs to present multiple types, because of the many different people that will attend the class.

Being able to understand students and their different tastes is what can really make or break a music educator. Unlike math or science, music isn't as strictly defined as those subjects are. Due to this fact, a teacher needs to be well rounded and be able to teach not only classical, but maybe even jazz and possibly even up to rock and roll, along with some other genres that appeared throughout musical history. The fact that music is a growing and almost living form of art is one that needs to also be understood by the teacher. Along with understanding music and its different forms, the teacher needs to be passionate about music. Without passion behind the teaching, it can really lose its meaning. On the other hand, if the students perceive the passion in the teacher, they themselves can start to feel the same way.

Music education can be a difficult subject to justify and to teach. The teacher and student relationship can require strong understanding on both sides. The teacher needs to understand the differences of taste and needs to be passionate about what they're doing. The student needs to understand and accept other forms of music, although they might not like it. Music can teach many life lessons, and without society would greatly suffer, and it needs great teachers to open up those doors to the students.