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Intro to Music Ed
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My Philosophy of Music Education

Victor Hugo once said "Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which that it is impossible to be silent." The more and more one thinks about that statement, we realize how true it is. Music is in every culture, in every time, and in every place. It is almost impossible to take oneself away from music.

It seems that music is a constant in our everyday lives. Whether we are in the car, at a movie, watching TV, at church, at work, there always seems to be music somewhere. Music builds suspense during the coming climax of a movie; music soothes the soul when we are feeling sad or lonely. Music helps us rejoice when we need to praise, express joy or in general just have fun. No matter where we happen to be music is there.

One of the greatest things about music is that it binds everyone everywhere in the world together. No matter what language, a choir is singing in, or where a piece may come from, people will still come to hear the music. Just because we may not understand what is happening when we listen to a piece, that doesn't mean that it won't still overcome us and take us to a new place. That is what makes being a Music Educator so exciting, we have the power to take people to far away places, and not even physically leave our performance space. We can transform where

we are, to touch people, to bring them closer to each other, just through that wonderful gift of music.

There should be no question as to why music should be taught to all of our younger generations. Because of music's great power to bind, and share our feelings and emotions, should be the firm reason to keep music in school.

Music should start right away at an Elementary level. We can teach our children the folk songs of our heritage, whatever that may be, and also the songs of other heritages. We can use the diverse backgrounds of all the children that we may have in the classroom to help us plan what we may teach to our children. In this way we will almost be showing our children who they are, and where they come from. As Music Educators we should also step out of the box and begin to teach our students the idea of "solfege singing," and also start teaching some Music History and Theory. As they progress into their "tweenage" years we can start using technology to help reinforce what the students are already learning. It is most important that even though we want our children/students to be studying the "classic" works, it would be most beneficial to use some of the everyday music that our children hear, so that way we can really keep them turned on to music and also it will help us to keep a variety of music in our classroom even though some of it won't be up to par with what we would like.

In the High school years we as Music Educators and really being to start introducing our students to the whole gamut of

music, we can start opening up the breadth of music learning to each and every child. As an Educator we could offer courses that will show the students all of the varieties that music has to offer. Now would be a time where we would wrap up what the students have learned thus far in their music education, and start to lead them forward and open them to new experiences.

In a sense we as music educators should adopt the idea of "No Child Left Behind," but do it without all of the testing. We should not be selective about who can or cannot be learning about music; after all, music does offer something for everyone. Just because a person cannot sing or play an instrument doesn't mean that they can't learn about music. We could show them the aspect of recording, or maybe they are brilliant lyricists, or music writers.

Through it all it is extremely important that we keep a well-balanced curriculum. It isn't fair that we cater to one group of people and leave another group in the dark. There is much to be learned from every kind of music, and we should impress upon our students that just because we are learning something, that doesn't mean that they have to believe it or not, the reason that we are learning the music is so that we can learn about other styles, and ideas. It is sad that we have school districts that restrict what we can and cannot teach in our classrooms; by doing this we are restricting what our children can learn. We shouldn't restrict what our children may or may not want to learn. Our job is to offer them with everything that

they need to learn, and they should be the ones to make the decision about what is good for them or not. In a sense if we restrict what they should learn we are leading them down a yellow brick road.

The only way that we can achieve these levels of music education is by putting well-trained educators at every step of our education process. We need to employ teachers that are able to teach history, theory, musicianship, and the list goes on. The teacher may not be able to teach everything like a college professor but we should be able to teach everything at a basic level. It is also important that our teachers are aware and part of our various education associations. These associations offer so much to the music teacher, that they can be a valuable resource when it comes time to teach. Music educators, like their students, should always be ready and willing to learn, this is what will keep our music classrooms full.

In closing we need to always be on the lookout for ways that we can offer the best music education possible for our students. We all know that music isn't something that is boring and dull, it is something that is always changing and something exciting is always ready to pop up right around the corner. Music is not something to take light heartedly, we should get excited because we are spreading our joy to others so that they may share their joy about something that is a wonderful influence in their life.