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Intro

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Philosophy of Music Education

As far back as I can remember music has been a part of my life. Whether it was dancing in front of the television to the theme songs from Jeopardy or Full House, or being sung to sleep as a baby, music entered my life at an early age and has since stuck around. I have had many musical influences in my life and the prospect of teaching music and possibly becoming an influence in someone else's life is a significant goal of mine. Music is very important in every life and school is where most children are first exposed to music on a more formal, learning-based level. Being given the opportunity to be a part of that is almost indescribable. Every child should be given the opportunity to learn about music and appreciate what it can offer. It opens many doors and, most importantly, allows students to discover more about themselves.

Some of the more prominent musical influences in my life have been; my grandfather, my elementary music teacher Mr. Carpenter, and my middle school band director Mrs. Doleysh. Each of them has taught me many things, both musical and extra musical that I hope to pass on to my students. My grandfather has been very involved with music for as long as I can remember. He was a band director and exposed me to music at an early age when he would take me to band rehearsals. He has always been supportive of me and he encouraged everyone in our family to pursue our interests, whatever they may be. I think that it is very important for students to feel that they have friends and family who support them, as well as teachers. Mr. Carpenter taught me that

music should always be something that students enjoy, and that to truly enjoy music is to be unable to picture one's life without it. I couldn't picture my life without music if I tried. Finally, Mrs. Doleys made me realize the pride that comes with music. When one has accomplished something musically, the sense of pride that goes along with it is almost indescribable. Being involved in music is a very rewarding experience, and I believe that all students should be given the opportunity to feel that.

Music and an education in the arts are both extremely important in life for many reasons. As stated in the Introduction to the National Standards for Arts Education, the arts "connect each new generation." Music does this by appealing to people of all ages. Also, music is a different type of communication and expression that makes life worth living. Music creates different ways of looking at similar concepts and also plays an important role in all cultures. Aside from being an important aspect of individual cultures, music also connects these cultures with the similarities of their respective types of music. Finally, music allows all people to discover more about themselves. The Introduction states that music "[brings] us face to face with ourselves, and with what we sense lies beyond ourselves." Music not only promotes self-exploration, but helps it along as well. Once music is part of someone's life, they also discover that it is a part of who they are as a person. This brings them closer to their destination on their journey of self discovery.

I believe that it is imperative that music be taught in schools so that each child can be given the opportunity to discover music. Although it is not the only place, it is the one place that all children have access to. Also, music and the arts help students in many ways. The Introduction to the National Standards for Arts Education gives many

examples of this. First, “attributes such as self-discipline, the collaborative spirit, and perseverance, which are so necessary to the arts, can transfer to the rest of life.” I have personally found this to be very true. Once I began playing an instrument, I discovered that practice was a vital part of success, not only in my music class, but many other classes as well. Practicing and persevering became the alternative to giving up. Also, in balancing numerous activities, I learned to manage my time more effectively. The Introduction also states that “the arts provide forms of nonverbal communication that can strengthen the presentation of ideas and emotions.” This is very true and something that I believe is important for all students to learn. Just imagine the world without music. No background in movies, no musicals, no concerts - music plays such an important role in many mediums; it’s amazing that we sometimes forget. Music makes these events what they are. Finally the Introduction presented an idea that was new to me. It successfully depicted the large amount of influence that educators of the arts have. “Each person has a responsibility for advancing civilization itself. The arts encourage taking this responsibility and provide the skills and perspectives for doing so.” I had never really thought about this until now, but being able to provide future generations with the tools to advance civilization itself is another awesome opportunity that music teachers have.

I believe that it takes a passionate individual to teach music. Music is, after all, an unbelievable amount of passion put into each note. This individual must also believe in what he or she is teaching, just as in any other subject. I have been lucky in that all of my music teachers have embodied these ideals and I have come from each of my music classes with a positive experience to build off of. I will take each of these experiences and put them to good use in becoming the music educator that I am challenging myself to

be. Until I begin my career, I can only hope that I will be the kind of teacher that makes a difference in the lives of her students. In repeatedly reflecting on my experiences with music and keeping myself informed of the views of others I can make sure that it is only a matter of time.