

Philosophy of Music Education

I believe that music education is an essential part of educating holistic citizens. Music brings people together, people all around the world congregate in concert halls to enjoy the experience of live music together and musicians are able to attend schools and be a part of ensembles where they can interact with like-minded people. Music builds discipline by promoting self-motivation, organization, respect, and professionalism, which are all skills that are important in life. "If active engagement with music increases positive perceptions of self, this may transfer to other areas of study and increase motivation to persist. There were high correlations between positive self-perception, cognitive competence, self-esteem, and interest and involvement in school music. The confidence and self-beliefs that can accrue from learning to play a musical instrument and performing in public may increase motivation more generally leading to enhanced attainment across the whole curriculum." (Manus). Music is also a major form of expression, some people are not able to express themselves through other means and music can be their outlet.

Every teacher should have a clear idea of how education should take place. The idea is integral to being a good teacher. Being able to understand how you interact with your students and how you present and receive knowledge from them and to them is very important in teaching effectively.

Students should acquire knowledge through cooperative learning." structuring of cooperative learning activities so that all students contribute to the group through participation and elaboration, thereby increasing understanding through verbal processing. Student-to-student interaction in small, heterogeneous learning groups, with individuals helping each other, is common to all versions of cooperative learning. Each group is a microcosm of the whole class in academic achievement, gender, ethnicity, and race. In cooperative learning, students learn actively while the teacher becomes a facilitator in the learning process." (Cangro). Both the students and the teacher bring different perspectives and knowledge to the table. We all gain knowledge from one another rather than the teacher just giving knowledge and the students just receiving it. Intellectual skills should be gained through experience. It is important for students to experience the importance of what is being taught in order for them to gain intellectual skills.

"Prime candidates for investigating a relationship between academic achievement and music education appear to be executive functions such as planning, working memory, and

inhibition”(Jaschke). Students will gain ideas and values through observation and interaction with individuals they respect, whether that be peers, teachers, or any other person they respect.

Music is beneficial in schools for many reasons. “Everyone enjoys music, whether by listening to it, singing, or playing an instrument. But despite this almost universal interest, many schools are choosing to do away with their music education programs. This is a mistake, with schools losing not only an enjoyable subject, but a subject that can enrich students’ lives and education. Read on to learn why music education is so important, and how it offers benefits even beyond itself.” (Nafmeadmin). Music helps students learn to work together, music in the classroom can be used as a group activity where all individuals are all equally as important, this requires them all to learn to work together to help create something they can all be proud of.

“Performing music involves coordinating our efforts, too...at least if we want to produce a pleasing sound. According to researchers, when we try to sync with others musically—keeping the beat or harmonizing, for example—we tend to feel positive social feelings towards those with whom we’re synchronizing, even if that person is not visible to us or not in the same room.

Though it’s unclear exactly why that happens, coordinating movement with another person is linked to the release of pleasure chemicals (endorphins) in the brain, which may explain why we get those positive, warm feelings when we make music together.” (Suttie)Music is a necessity when educating a holistic human being: music teaches things like collaboration, cultural heritage, creative thinking, attention to detail, and professionalism, things that are not able to be taught in other classes. The skills learned in the music classrooms help build strong learners who think critically and creatively. These skills help students in other classes and, in turn, can help create a better learning environment in general

A good music program should provide its students with performance opportunities and other classes that provide a nurturing environment where students are not afraid to fail and take risks. “As a student-centered instructional method, culturally responsive instruction is focused on catering to the social, emotional, and educational needs of the student. Among the first goals that teachers must achieve in order to successfully create a culturally responsive environment is convincing their students that they genuinely care about their cultural, emotional, and intellectual needs. There are several strategies that you can use to build trusting relationships with diverse

students. These strategies include such subtle gestures as being sure to learn the proper pronunciation of student names and expressing interest in the etymology of interesting and diverse names.” (Lynch). While students are going through music school they should experience, learn, and understand. Students should know how to read and interpret music notation, this is a building block for learning music, without knowing how to read or interpret musical notation you won't be able to understand music. The program should be diverse, a good music program that offers diversity in repertoire as well as the methods of educating the students provides the students with a variety of learning opportunities and helps them become more well-rounded people. “The cultural values and contributions of diverse musicians and genres provide the perfect avenue to explore and learn about the “other” in a classroom environment. Additionally, the chance to sing, play and listen to the music of other cultures creates an understanding that transcends personal experience, and creates a more global perspective.” (Kelly McHale). Students should learn music history, the history of music strongly correlates with human history and it will provide the students with an educated understanding of music's rich history and why music is important to humans and society. Students should learn music theory, music is written and played using the rules set by music theory, and music theory provides a deeper and crucial understanding of music. Students should experience a nurturing environment Where they feel safe and comfortable. The music room should be a space that encourages growth and positivity. Students should not be afraid to fail or take risks, because this is a crucial part of learning. Failing is not a bad thing, it is an opportunity to learn and grow and should be seen as such.

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