

Philosophy of Instrumental Music Education

A musical education is essential to any student's development and education. Most students are exposed to music in their environment from a very young age; however, this exposure is in most cases informal and non-educational in nature. Formal, educational instruction in music can increase the benefits of exposure to music through both musical and extra-musical means.

There are many musical benefits to a musical education. A musical education (especially one that includes any type of performance, as the National Standards require), gives students the opportunity to express themselves. Some students are more comfortable expressing their feelings and emotions through music than they are through words or any other medium. This opportunity for expression allows students to convey their feelings in a way that could even help improve their own health and safety. Additionally, an education in music while in schools will help instill a life-long passion for music in students. This passion will provide for many positive aesthetic experiences later in life.

In addition to these benefits of an education in music, there are also many benefits that transcend the music classroom and music in general. For example, studying an instrument can help develop a good work ethic. This work ethic, while beneficial in the music classroom, will also be instilled in the student for application to other subject. Also, there is known to be a positive correlation between a student's participation in music and his/her test scores. Instruction in music teaches problem-solving skills and helps acculturate students, so they have the opportunity to make an even-more lasting impact on society than they did beforehand.

These musical and extra-musical experiences (and their positive benefits) are the most important reasons that instruction in music is extremely imperative to today's students. Music has the opportunity to create incredible, lasting experiences for these students; to allow them the opportunity to benefit from these experiences would enrich their lives in more ways than a classroom setting could. Because of this, instrumental music education is a vital aspect of a student's school experience.