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Benefits of Music Education - At Any Age!!

July 8, 2008 at 11:47 pm | Posted in [Benefits of Music](#), [Choosing & Using Music](#), [Music Education](#), [Music Therapy](#) | 1 Comment
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There is a wonderful African expression that says *“If you can talk, you can dance... If you can walk, you can dance!!”* I have played music for most of my life - mainly as a self-taught lover of great songs. Anyhow, it is possible for anyone to learn some form of musical expression - which includes dancing, whistling, humming and almost anything else that lets out the music in your head and heart. This short list describes the benefits of formal education - particularly as it applies to children

Twelve Benefits of Music Education

- 1) Early musical training helps develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning. It is thought that brain development continues for many years after birth. Recent studies have clearly indicated that musical training physically develops the part of the left side of the brain known to be involved with processing language, and can actually wire the brain’s circuits in specific ways. Linking familiar songs to new information can also help imprint information on young minds.
- 2) There is also a causal link between music and spatial intelligence (the ability to perceive the world accurately and to form mental pictures of things). This kind of intelligence, by which one can visualize various elements that should go together, is critical to the sort of thinking necessary for everything from solving advanced mathematics problems to being able to pack a book-bag with everything that will be needed for the day.
- 3) Students of the arts learn to think creatively and to solve problems by imagining various solutions, rejecting outdated rules and assumptions. Questions about the arts do not have only one right answer.
- 4) Recent studies show that people who study the arts are more successful on standardized tests such as the SAT. They also achieve higher grades in high school.
- 5) Study of the arts provides people with an internal glimpse of other cultures and teaches them to be empathetic towards the people of these cultures. This development of compassion and empathy, as opposed to development of greed and a “me first” attitude, provides a bridge across cultural chasms that leads to respect of other races at an early age.
- 6) Students of music learn craftsmanship as they study how details are put together painstakingly and what constitutes good, as opposed to mediocre, work. These standards, when applied to a student’s own work, demand a new level of excellence and require students to stretch their inner resources.
- 7) In music, a mistake is a mistake; the instrument is in tune or not, the notes are well played or not, the entrance is made or not. It is only by much hard work that a successful performance is possible. Through music study, people learn the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence and the concrete rewards of hard work.
- 8) Music study enhances teamwork skills and discipline. In order for an orchestra to sound good, all players must work together harmoniously towards a single goal, the performance, and must commit to learning music, attending rehearsals, and practicing.
- 9) Music provides people with a means of self-expression. Now that there is relative security in the basics of existence, the challenge is to make life meaningful and to reach for a higher stage of development. Everyone needs to be in touch at some time in his life with his core, with what he is and what he feels. Self-esteem is a by-product of this self-expression.
- 10) Music study develops skills that are necessary in the workplace. It focuses on “doing,” as opposed to observing, and teaches students how to perform, literally, anywhere in the world. Employers are looking for multi-dimensional workers with the sort of flexible and supple intellects that music education helps to create as described above. In the music classroom, students can also learn to better communicate and cooperate with one another.
- 11) Music performance teaches people to conquer fear and to take risks. A little anxiety is a good thing, and something that will occur often in life. Dealing with it early and often makes it less of a problem later. Risk-taking is essential if a child is to fully develop his or her potential.
- 12) An arts education exposes people to the incomparable inspiration of music, dance, and other forms of creative expression.



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This is an accurate list of positives about music education. I might add the following:

Music is a form of **experiential learning** where the student learns concepts and then directly experiences them. This is a superior way to learn when compared to simple rote learning and memorization of facts that happens in other academic disciplines.

Music teaches **emotional expression** which, in addition to the obvious spiritual and health benefits, aids in getting memories more deeply encoded into the brain.

Music teaches the **entire person** by involving all areas of intelligence including mathematical, linguistic, spatial, interpersonal, and intrapersonal.

I really like what you had to say here, and it is right up my alley. 😊

Please visit my webpage at <http://www.thomasjwestmusic.com> for articles, blogs, and materials intended to help music teachers and students learn the art of music even better.

Comment by [tomwest73](#)— July 9, 2008 #

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