

Why Music?

By Pennsylvania Music Educators Association

- I. ***Music is a Science.*** It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.
- II. ***Music is Mathematics.*** It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.
- III. ***Music is a Foreign Language.*** Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English -- but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas.
- IV. ***Music is History.*** Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/or ethnic feeling.
- V. ***Music is Physical Education.*** It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, and facial muscles in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.
- VI. Music is all these things, but most of all, ***Music is Art.*** It allows a human being to take all these dry, boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing no other subject can duplicate; humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

That is why we learn music:

Not because we expect to major in music

Not because we expect to play or sing all our lives

But so we will be *human*

so we will recognize *beauty*

so we will have something to *cling* to

so we will have more *love*

more *compassion*

more *gentleness*

more *good*