

WHY MUSIC IN OUR LIFE?

MUSIC IS A SCIENCE

It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's 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.

MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions, which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

MUSIC IS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, French, and the notation is certainly not English, but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music are the most complete and universal language.

MUSIC IS HISTORY

Music usually reflects the environment and the times of its creation, often even the country and/or racial feeling.

MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

MUSIC IS ALL OF THESE THINGS, BUT MOST OF ALL, MUSIC IS ART

It allows a human being to take all accumulated knowledge and skill and use it to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

THAT IS WHY WE TEACH MUSIC!

Not because we expect you to major in music.

Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life.

Not so you can relax.

Not so you can have fun.

But...

So you will be more human.

So you will recognize beauty.

So you will be more sensitive.

So you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world.

So you will have something to cling to.

So you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good, in short, more life.

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?

-Dom Famularo