

Quotes on the Importance of Music

Making can inspire the soul, fill one's heart, and cause one to dream.

Sally K. Albrecht, composer

The knowledge, the order, the beauty, and the discipline of music shape our lives and the character that embodies them.

Tony Ames, percussionist

If only educators could understand how easy it is to teach children to read music and how much their lives would be enriched by it. The first-hand experience of participation in the of making music is one of life's fulfilling experience. I would wish that every young person could have that opportunity. I can't imagine a life without music.

Daniel Barenboim, conductor

Music makes the soul sing, and from every living soul comes the goodness of mankind.

Paul Berry, TV broadcaster

Music is a language that when spoken well can move hearts to every emotion. But the greatest vocabulary is no match for the articulate. It's the language of the heart and should developed in our youth.

Cling Black, singer/songwriter

Music is a universal language, one that affirms so authentically the rich diversity of human experience across cultures. Music is the language of young children, and if civility is to be sustained, introduction to music in all its richness surely must be at the very heart of the core curriculum in every school.

Ernest L. Boyer, Carnegie Foundation

Music is to the soul as food is to the body.

Rita Mae Brown, author

Music is not only of the oldest, but certainly one of the best forms of communication. It defines our humanness. It speaks to use directly, heart to heart, soul to soul, when at times words do not suffice.

Dave Brubeck, jazz musician/composer

If we do not include music as part of basic education, we will be the first civilization in history to do so. We will deprive future generations of a very precious heritage.

Robert Conant, Foundation for Baroque Music

Music gives some meaning to humankind's existence. Not literally, but in its mysterious way gives evidence to man's everlasting struggle with his deep feelings and aspirations.

Norman Dello Joio, composer/educator

Through the knowledge and practice of the arts comes an appreciation of multiple interpretations and an understanding of standards of excellence. Inventiveness has been the hallmark of American character; I believe comprehensive and sequential instruction in music and the other arts will enable our children to cooperate and compete more effectively with the other nations of the world.

Richard Gurin, Binney & Smith

In the womb, the tiny human being already reacts selectively to music. When even the most sophisticated mastery of words is inadequate to express the subtlety and depth of human experience, music takes over. Thus music is the first and the last word.

Laura Huxley, write, violinist

If we are to hope for a society of culturally literate people, music must be a vital part of our children's education.

Yo-Yo Ma, cellist

Nothing speaks to the soul so uncomplicatedly, so directly, so deeply, as music.

Harold Prince, director

Music is the voice that tells us that the human race greater than it knows.

Marion C. Garretty

Music is the voice of all humanity, of whatever time or place. In its presence we are one.

Charlotte Gray

Music is the only language in which you cannot say a mean or sarcastic thing.

John Erskine

Music may achieve the highest of all missions: she may be a bond between nations, races, and states, who are strangers to one another in many ways; she may unite what is disunited, and bring peace to what is hostile.

Dr. Max Bendiner

Music is the universal language of mankind.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.

Leonard Bernstein

Music is the eternal continuum of the human condition.

Rosemary Nesbitt, actor/teacher

The hallmarks of accomplishment that are achieved through the self-discipline of diligent practice and through the knowledge gained in the study of the music disciplines' traditions, performance, and creative activity gives students an insight into the special inspiration of the world of music. These real benefits sustain students in their lives, both now and in the future.

Herbert Reynolds, Baylor Univ.

The future of music may not lie entirely in music itself, but rather in the way it encourages and extends, rather than limits, the aspirations and ideals of the people, in the way it makes itself a part with the finer things that humanity does and dreams of.

Charles Ives

Music, of all the arts, stands in a special region, unlit by any star but its own, and utterly without meaning...except its own.

Leonard Bernstein