



THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Much has been said, especially in the past few years, about the importance of music literacy for all people. Sociologists, psychologists, and educators have made numerous studies which show the value of having a musically literate society—benefits for both individuals and society as a whole. Some of their findings include:

- ~A year's musical training can increase a child's IQ by as much as 10 points.**
- ~Children who have studied music rate higher scholastically and develop more active imaginations and better qualities of leadership.**
- ~Musical literacy increases a child's spatial reasoning skills and appears to strengthen communication among brain areas involved in music, such as complex mathematics, sculpting and navigation.**
- ~Musical literacy improves coordination between thought and action, encourages creativity and orderly thinking, fosters mental alertness and builds up staying power.**
- ~Music training develops concentration and memory, important qualities in all aspects of life and learning.**
- ~Musical literacy teaches children how not only to learn, but to listen, and helps their minds develop the ability to focus on how the sounds are perceived.**
- ~SAT scores for students having had course work/experience in music education were more than 30 point higher in verbal skills and 15 points higher in mathematical skill than students without music education experience.**

Plato said of music, "It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything. It is the essence of order and leads to all that is good, just, and beautiful, of which it is the invisible, but nevertheless dazzling, passionate and eternal form."