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# Why Music is Important to You

Josh Wilson  
jhw028@bucknell.edu

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*This I Believe Essay*  
Why Music is Important to You

I believe in music. I don't just mean listening to music on an mp3 player. I mean making music. I believe in the child who decides to take up the drums, the violin, the saxophone, or simply their own vocal cords. Learning how to play music is a major commitment in mind, body, spirit, and wallet, and I applaud anyone who takes such a leap of faith.

Music has always been in my family. My mother signed me up for piano lessons at age 7 and I continued with them up until 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I then took up the tenor saxophone in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and I played it all through middle school and high school. Finally, I was introduced to the Great Highland Bagpipes in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and I continue to play them today. I later pursued conducting as the drum major of my high school marching band. As I look back on all of my musical endeavors, I remember all of the lessons, rehearsals, practices, and performances that I attended. More importantly, I remember my parents who drove me to all of those lessons and performances, and who financed my musical career.

I believe in those parents who support the growth of their child each step of the way in the musical process. I know how frustrating it is to have to listen to someone practice the same song on the piano day after day. Beethoven's *Minuet in G Major* can get a little dull after a while. I think that in the back of their minds, parents know, as tedious as it may be, that each drive to a music lesson is worth something in the long run. Who knows; that child might be the next virtuoso in his/her instrument. Music takes time and patience.

It is incredible the amount of times I have heard someone tell me that they regret quitting music lessons, and that they would give everything up to be able to play again. Music has so much to offer to anyone and everyone who has the willpower to find their niche. You don't have to be musically inclined to be an artist. The experience is what counts. I sometimes think that parents and educators don't realize how crucial music education is to a child at a very early age. Research has shown that children who learn a foreign language at an early age is beneficial, but exploratory music is often overlooked as a means to mentally stimulate children. One important skill that I have mastered at an early age with the help of music education is multi-tasking, which is a talent often lacking in our parent's generation.

Music teaches dedication, cooperation, artistry, mastery, multi-tasking, and appreciation for the fine arts. I believe that these ideals are so critical to a person developing into society in this age. This is why I believe in music as an art form, a process, and a teaching tool.