



Music Education Facts - Concert Program

“At this time when you are making critical and far-reaching budget and program decisions...I write to bring to your attention the importance of the arts as a core academic subject and part of a complete education for all students. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act defines the arts as a core subject, and the arts play a significant role in children’s development and learning process. The arts can help students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively.”

--Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, 2009

Playing an instrument as a kid leads to a sharper mind in old age, according to a new study conducted by Brenda Hanna-Pladdy, a clinical neuropsychologist in Emory’s Department of neurology, and her colleagues. The researchers gave 70 people between the ages of 60 and 83 a battery of tests to measure memory and other cognitive abilities. The researchers found that those who had played an instrument for a decade or longer scored significantly higher on the tests than those with no musical background.

--Scientific American, 2011

The College Board showed that students who took four years of arts and music classes while in high school scored 91 points better on their SATs than students who took only one-half year or less. (1070 vs. 979, respectively).

--Data from 2009

Nearly 100% of past winners in the prestigious Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science and Technology (for high school students) play one or more musical instruments. This led the Siemens Foundation to host a recital at Carnegie Hall in 2004, featuring some of these young people, after which a panel of experts debated the nature of the apparent science/music link.

--The Midland Chemist (American Chemical Society) Vol. 42, No.1, Feb. 2005

With music in schools, students connect to each other better-greater camaraderie, fewer fights, less racism and reduced use of hurtful sarcasm.

--Eric Jensen, Arts With the Brain in Mind, 2001

Students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs among any group in our society.

--H. Con. Res. 266, United States Senate, June 13, 2000

Music training helps under-achievers. Students lagging behind in scholastic performance caught up to their fellow students in reading and surpassed their classmates in math by 22% when given music instruction over seven months.

--Nature, May 23, 1996

Music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school.

--Lewis Thomas, Case for Music in the Schools, Phi Delta Kappa, 1994

For more information on the importance music and the arts plays in your child’s success, and how you as a parent can engage, visit AMParents.org, The National Association of Music Parents and become a member.