

What VALUE Should Society Place on the Ability to THINK Like a Musician?

Persons skilled in music possess the fine motor skills, cognitive capabilities, creative perspectives and collaborative capacities for:

- 1) Understanding human experiences, both past and present;
- 2) Learning to adapt to and respect others' ways of thinking, working, and expressing themselves;
- 3) Learning artistic modes of problem solving, which bring an array of expressive, analytical, creative and developmental tools to every human situation;
- 4) Understanding the influences of the arts in their power to create and reflect cultures, in the impact of design on virtually all we use in daily life, and in the interdependence of work in the arts with the broader worlds of ideas and actions;
- 5) Making decisions in situations where there are no standard answers;
- 6) Analyzing nonverbal communication and making informed judgments about cultural products and issues;
- 7) Communicating their thoughts and feelings in a variety of modes, giving them a vastly more powerful repertoire of self-expression.

“We think about the world in all of the ways we experience it, including all the different ways we use our senses. Different media help us think in different ways. History is full of examples of people who didn't discover their creative abilities until after they discovered the media in which they thought best. Finding and developing our creative strengths is an essential part of becoming who we really are.”

The Element by Sir Ken Robinson

FACE THE MUSIC

“Maybe the consequences of engaging in the arts are simply to experience great beauty; to be moved to laughter and tears or to action, to inspire discussion and challenge ideas; to exercise the complete range of human emotions; to pass on our values throughout history, to restore humanity itself. These are the consequences that await young adults who ‘face the music.’”

Michael Tilson Thomas
Music Director Laureate of the San Francisco Symphony
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