



## **S p i r i t o f H a r m o n y F o u n d a t i o n**

### **Why Music Education? (shorter version)**

Children who participate in a robust music education program develop cognitive tools and skills that will stay with them for life.

As adults, we understand that the process of learning something new entails working through frustrations and setbacks. When children work through the challenges of learning to play a musical instrument, overcoming and succeeding, they develop a sense of accomplishment and pride as they gain self-esteem and self-confidence.

When children participate in a band or an orchestra, they immediately acquire a self-identity, a feeling of pride, stronger motivation, and a sense of belonging, expressed when they proclaim “I am a member of the band.”

Playing in a band develops interpersonal skills, such as the ability to work with others. These capabilities are an integral part of high achievement, whether in a professional environment, or among family and friends, or in personal relationships. Social skills will continue to pay dividends in every phase of their lives.

Ultimately the question is not “why music education?” The question is “how can we deny our children the opportunity to develop life skills and tools that will help them achieve?” As parents, concerned citizens, teachers, and administrators, we must recognize and act upon the Moral Imperative for Music Education.

Thank you.