

## THESIS.

Subject, Why Music should be taught  
in the Public Schools.

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Music is the best gift of God, because it is the only art of heaven given to earth. says Prof. Randon.

The very first sound the child hears is very often the lullaby of the mother, and these lullabies often leave a lasting impression on the mind, even after reaching manhood. The child is not to be found who does not like to sing. The study of music is a pleasure to them, and they take great interest in it because they like it so well. So why not teach them music from the very first day they enter school?

The Creator has given us a love for the beautiful and an ear to enjoy the harmony of sweet sounds. As he has given us these musical talents, it is the duty of every teacher and every friend of education to see that these talents are properly developed.

Children come to school in the morning full of life and fun and are often inclined



like to noisy for indoors. We don't want them  
to come in any other spirit, but we don't want  
them to keep up an uproar in the school rooms all day.

By singing a lively song just after calling  
the school to order, a channel is opened through  
which they may lose some of this turbulent  
spirit and be in good trim for the work of the  
day.

Then some teachers spend a few minutes every  
morning in scolding and telling the children  
what not to do, but never telling them what they  
may do. If they would have this time spent in  
singing, they would find the discipline of their  
schools very much improved.

When the teacher and pupils become tired,  
restless, and irritated during the day, the  
singing of one good song will make them all  
bright and cheerful again.

Let us look at music as compared with  
reading. The character in reading called a

letter indicates a certain sound, and nothing more, while the character in music called a note, bearing the same relation to music as a letter does to reading, requires vigorous exercise on the part of the mind to convey the idea of its uses. In expressing a musical sound of definite pitch and a certain length of time, brings into action the perceptive faculties which reading does not.

Music helps to cultivate the memory, for the words of a song, and the length and pitch of the notes have to be committed. Obedience, may be taught through music as the children have to follow a leader in singing. It is a means of cultivating the taste, sentiments, and imagination.

Music softens, thrills and subdues the whole range of the emotions. It is the vehicle of sympathy and sympathy begets love. It is the only art capable of quieting the agitation of the soul, and it expresses feelings of joy, sorrow,



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devotion, and anguish. The lightest heart can be made to feel solemn by its majestic divine strains, the bravest filled with awe at its fiery, leaping chords, the most agitated to become calm under its soothing quieting influence, while a whole army of human souls may be led into the midst of death, of glistening bayonets, and booming cannons, on to victory by martial strains that come to their ears.

There is no better way to teach patriotism and unity than through music for Jew, Gentile, Catholic, and politician of every party will unite in singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and "The Star Spangled Banner." The heart can be reached through the ear and music given us for soul culture is the best moral food and draws us closer to God.

In all Public Schools the rudiments of this art should be carefully taught, but all technicalities should be avoided as the children

cannot comprehend them and become discouraged as a result. Sight reading may be made very interesting to children by a competent teacher who is in sympathy with the children. Sight reading demands the most careful attention, accurate and rapid thinking, and the complete concentration of the mind.

In Germany, music is taught in all the schools and nearly every one understands the rudiments. Their congregational astonishes our most skilled choirs. When music is taught in our schools, we shall have fine congregational singing in our churches and shall have little need of a paid choir. Luther said, "That the youth must always be accustomed to this art for it makes good and virtuous citizens."

Singing quickens the circulation, arouses bodily activities promotes the habit of free and lengthened respiration, and imparts increased vigor to the whole system.



Music was among the first civilizers of the world. In the Bible we find those beautiful Psalms of David which were sung many hundred years ago and are still sung to-day. We should lead children to love music for itself without the words.

Music is the universal language, the eternal art, and the fitting expression of our highest and holiest conceptions. It is the first intelligent utterance of the baby, the last request of the departing saint. It is often used for a diversion to enliven the quarterly examinations, or to entertain some occasional visitor.

In the future let us teach music in our schools and make our nation as great musically as Germany and Holland because music cultivates the imagination, sentiments, and memory, trains perceptive faculties. It is a great aid in the school discipline, teaches obedience and aids greatly in the congregat-

at singing of our churches. It lays the foundation of higher culture in later life, and aids in abolishing the low street songs heard in all our cities and towns. Now the best reason of all is that the children like it.



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