

## Music in Education

Author(s): Frances E. Clark

Source: Music Supervisors' Journal, Vol. 8, No. 2 (Dec., 1921), pp. 20-22

### MUSIC IN EDUCATION

Address of Mrs. Frances E. Clark,  
National Federation of Music Clubs,  
St. Louis, Missouri, Nov. 9, 1921.

Education through Music and Music in Education has come to be one of the great aims of the National Federation of Music Clubs. No worthier cause could be undertaken, and no more important message could be given to the great music loving public and to the educators of the country. As we all well know, when schools and colleges were founded in this country there was no Music in them for two hundred years. Like father like son - when the newer colleges and universities were established they were naturally offshoots from the parent stem.

Music in this country has suffered a grievous handicap from the attitude of the Puritans, seemingly the one error in that epochal movement which laid the foundations of our great government of liberty loving people. While the Cammerati gave the first opera in an attempt to revive the Greek drama, our Indians were chanting their songs of planting or harvest, of war or peace unmolested. When Amati perfected the violin and Lully came out of the kitchen to play his beautiful melodies, our brave Pilgrims were struggling for a foothold and an existence on these inhospitable shores. When Bach and Handel astonished the world with their creations, our great grandmothers were being taken prisoners by the Indians and Alice of old Vincennes journeyed to old St. Louis. When Haydn organized the orchestra and Mozart played the clavichord, Washington surveyed our forests and Franklin called down the lightning. While Beethoven knocked at the door of fate in his immortal Fifth Symphony, we, too, knocked and opened the door of world freedom by establishing our representative government.

While Music was left out of the scheme of things educational, be it noted that it was in Puritan Boston that Music was first introduced into the public schools in 1836, also that it was in that same reformed Boston that the first Music school was established in 1867 (although it must be said Chicago and Cincinnati followed in the same year), exactly two hundred years after the founding of Yale and Harvard. However, we may proudly boast that in the past fifty years Music has grown more rapidly in the United States than it ever did in two hundred years anywhere else. We had farther to go and we were spurred on by pride, and shame, and aided by more leisure, American pluck, and money, the schools, and the Women's Music Clubs.

Twenty-five years ago the Clubs began to work together for the general good of Music in America. The first effort was to take the great artists to the inland cities and towns, sow the seed and let it work. About the same time, the leaders of school

Music began to realize that Music must mean more in the schools than discipline and shouting male tones. Later, the educators, too, began to discover that Music was a leaven which, if permitted, could permeate and enliven the whole lump of educational processes. The supervisors, encouraged by appreciation in some places, sprang forward with reforms and advanced ideas as to the possibilities of Music as a regular credit study in the curriculum. These have revolutionized the methods, plans, and purposes, of the teaching of school Music. Again, some of the educators began to weary of the over-emphasis placed on industrial training, the scramble to turn out economic automatons screwed up to the nth power in earning a living, with small guidance in what to do with the life thus earned, restless and dangerous in the employment of leisure hours. Then came the War with its blazing revelations of the power of Music to stabilize the whirling emotions of the front ranks, the camp, and the home workers alike. The Educators, the press, the Nation, took note and said, "Let Us Have More Music." The supervisors and the community leaders responded with zeal, courage and confidence, but soon found alas! that in hundreds of places the demand was for bricks without straw.

The people say "Pipe and declare the sun unquenchable joy of earth," but woe to us in thousands of places there are no pipers and no pipes, and in hundreds more, the keepers of the school gates have builded high walls and fastened strong locks and again say to the divine messenger, "There is no room in the Inn."

Now comes the Federation of Music Clubs with twenty-five rich years behind in the service of making good music popular and imbued with the spirit of the times finds that if we are ever to achieve the great aim, to "Make America the Most Musical Nation," we must reach the 23,000,000 children in our public schools with the message and experience of real Music, only the best in Music – and build it into the lives of our children and adolescent citizens. Obviously, this can only be done through the supervisors of school Music, than whom there is no more hard working, conscientious devotees to a glorious cause.

What then is the situation? The supervisors are eager, courageous, striving to better the condition of Music in their several communities by organizing school bands, and orchestras, establishing courses in Music Appreciation, forming classes in the teaching of piano, violin, voice, and orchestral instruments, well organized choruses and Glee clubs, with equal credit for equal work done, both toward the local graduation and as college entrance credit. They realize that to bring Music to function in the home, school and community life, it must be well taught in the Normal school and supervisors courses offered in the universities, all at public expense precisely as has always been done in other branches of study.

Music has in it more elements of educational value than any other single subject, reading only excepted. Music is the greatest of the arts, at the same time it is a great science, but more than either its greatest value lies in its power as a factor in the education of the whole child for the enjoyment of life and a sane constructive citizenship.

Education must gain seven things for us -

1. Health.
2. Knowledge.
3. Skill
4. Judgment.
5. Appreciation of beauty and development of ethics.
6. Purpose.
7. Will.

Does Music contribute to these processes? Every one of these in some degree and in some to a superlative degree. It is the shortest route to the inner citadel of the child mind. It is as the vibrating chord of his heart, at once the inspiration and effervescence of his emotion and when rightly used the keenest spur to his intellect.

If then Music can be used as a real force in education in addition to its great value as a cultural subject, why is it not functioning in every school system in the country? Aye! There's the rub! There may be some superintendents who are still in the period of the eightieth. There are more school boards who are of the earth earthy and whose shibboleth is "economy". There are many excellent elderly millionaires whose income tax is so great a burden that there is consternation and orders to political henchmen if anyone dares to breathe of another mill in the school tax for so silly a fad as Music for the city's children. Here is where the Music Club comes in. The supervisors are helpless. They cannot batter out their brains against the stonewall of a befogged fossilized school board. Often they are not residents nor acquainted with local matters, but there is not a live Music Club in the United States that cannot put Music into their schools within a year, nor if it is already in cannot reorganize the whole situation if Music is not being given a fair deal.

Public opinion is the lever. The Music Club can co-operate with all Music lovers and workers in any line of musical activity and form a civic Music League. The Music Club can, by its own activity, so stir and arouse the general public to the needs of their own schools as to shame the "powers that be" into action. The Music Club can agitate like walking delegates for as many teachers of Music as there are of other subjects in proportion to the work required with such support as is given to other things. The Music Club can prove to the most skeptical the value of Music in the community by its own excellent programs and concerts, the sincerity and thoroughness of its study club, its charm, beauty, and educational value of its Juvenile and Junior Club work, and finally its earnest, sincere, co-operation with all efforts for community service - **Music Memory Contests**, "Music Week", festivals, pageants, etc. The Music Club can reach the businessmen, the Rotary Clubs, Chamber of Commerce and secure their support.

Here, then, is the mighty triumvirate in the task of "Making America Musical" - the Supervisors of Music in the schools, the Federated Clubs and the music loving public. Many Clubs are defunct or withering from dry rot for lack of some strong driving purpose as a reason for existence. The Federation has seized upon the most vital

opportunity in its career in this effort to reach its aim to "Make America Musical" through aiding the supervisor to put more Music into the schools, better Music into the ears of the children, to secure full recognition of Music as a credit study, whether taught within the school or temporarily outside the school, to a full quota of thoroughly trained and efficient teachers and to so arouse public opinion that a generous appropriation may be made to supply the necessary equipment to carry on the work.

Every Club can help. Every Club can start active work on this nationwide movement at once without interfering with any other plan.

Has your city or town a Music Supervisor? If not, why not? Are you acquainted with her or him? Do you know their needs?

Ask your churches to help. Use your Junior and Juvenile Club as an entering wedge. Is your local paper alive to the situation? Have you had a **Music Memory Contest** or festival, or pageant. If not, why not?

Veritably the harvest is white but the reapers too few. Let us enlist in this great land army call for volunteers, draft if necessary, and go steadily marching forward, singing our beloved America to her place in the sun.