

MATTHEW MCINTURF
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Thinking about Music and Teaching

The Midwest Clinic
Chicago, Illinois
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"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and cannot remain silent"
Victor Hugo, 1802-1885

Credo

Music is Experiential

Music is Learned by Making Music

We Teach what we Believe about Music

So, what do we think MUSIC is?

First, the good news:

Music is ART

Music is DISCIPLINE

Music is our PROFESSION

Is there other news?

Music is an ARTIFACT

Music is ENTERTAINMENT

Music can be a SPORT

So, MUSIC is HUMAN

If MUSIC is HUMAN and
Experiential

How do we EXPERIENCE it?

Intellectually

Emotionally

Kinesthetically

Spiritually

This is all connected to IDENTITY

“Love cannot express the idea of music, while music may give an idea of love”
Hector Berlioz, 1803-1869

Then, how do we EXPERIENCE
and MAKE MUSIC?

Listening

Performing

Improvising

Creating

Practicing

Imagining

“Simplicity is the final achievement. After one has played a vast quantity of notes and more notes, it is simplicity that emerges as the crowning reward of art.”
Frederic Chopin, 1810-1849

How does what we BELIEVE change how we teach MUSIC?

We must EXPERIENCE MUSIC together

We must engage the
BRAIN, HEART, BODY and SOUL

We must create a personal
MUSICAL IDENTITY

“As a great democratic society, we have a special responsibility to the arts. For art is the great democrat, calling forth creative genius from every sector of society, disregarding race or religion or wealth or color. What freedom alone can bring is the liberation of the human mind and a spirit, which finds its greatest flowering in the free society. I see little of more importance to the future of our country and our civilization than the full recognition of the place of the artist.”

John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963

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