

Music in the World of Democracy

By Kira Parshall

An impact means everything. Whether one day, year, or lifetime, a moment in music can change a perspective on the world. One moment can make a benefit, as wisdom and virtuosity inspire all who choose so to take a leap. Music teaches, grows, and contributes to the lives of not only Americans but also the entire Earth. It allows everyone to participate in an activity that creates joy and compassion while being taught valuable lessons on topics of respect, discipline, and teamwork. Stepping out into a world filled with hardships and diverse opinions, I have been given an opportunity to be amongst people with a passion and sense of inclusivity while being involved in an activity kindling said environment. I have seen what role music can play in the lives of all and what that can mean for the future of our democracy.

Our world is filled with many means of employment, opportunity, and opinions; whether experienced or not, participation in music helps people learn of their own and others' importance in their future. This is an activity where no one is left out and everyone has a role to play, whether as an instrumentalist or singer. In my case, my high school's marching band lets anyone in 8th grade or above participate, no matter how much experience the student has. This opportunity helps students of younger grades to gain experience while older upperclassmen learn to lead and inspire the underclassmen like how they were in their years prior. When compared in democracy, participation is extremely important to the system's success. Inclusion in an activity or role is vital when a decision needs to be made or a timeline needs to be met. In this case, my involvement in music has given me hope for continued participation in roles of teamwork and voicing my opinions in later years of my life. Participation in music lets democracy have a sound.

Because of music, I think of respect going in two directions: from yourself to others and from others to you. In order to be a team player, both in music and life, you have to recognize that not everyone has the same opinion and views as you do. A person might have a different interpretation of a piece or work of music. It's our job to accept that it's okay to be unique. The same idea goes for democracy. Our society is filled with varying ideas, so it is important not only to accept our differences but also to use our voice and put ideas out into the world. One voice can make a difference between if an idea stays or if it disappears. Music has made me realize that every person needs to be respected so conflict does not get in the way of success. It is up to us as a team to create an inclusive and respecting environment so all who choose to join can enjoy it.

Life can impact a person at any point. Time in music has given me a way to learn valuable life skills and experience more than just what music has in store. Each one of my music directors have given me ways to realize what life after high school may entail. From choir, I have been shown that being early and prepare can help someone be ready for a future career. One of the choir directors has always said that it's not just about singing; it's about preparing to go into a job interview with a resume in hand. From band, I have learned that everyone participating and listening to the others around you helps to recognize that everyone is important. Knowing and respecting the people surrounding your life is crucial in creating a work environment beneficial for all involved. In terms of democracy, both music departments have given me life skills that I hope to carry with me after high school. Without a doubt, music helps people make life decisions and hold up the terms of democracy.

Overall, music defines key characteristics need to be a member of democracy. It creates an environment for participation, respect, and full of life skills. Democracy leaves you with the same challenges and leaves you to make a decision. So, the best thing you can do when in the

face of democracy is to take past experiences and carry the lessons from them with you. That's what music has done for me.