

## Global Classroom Great Debate:

Beatrice Villaflor speaks in support of the motion:

*"This house believes every child must learn a musical instrument"*

"Hello to fellow students and teachers,

The Chinese philosopher Confucius once said, "*Music produces a kind of pleasure which the human nature cannot do without.*"

Music brings joy to many and with that, improves many skills. Unlike the majority, I am *for* the motion and believe that every child must learn a musical instrument.

Arguments have stated that music does not make you any better and learning how to play an instrument is merely just wasting time, however, I **disagree** with this for the following reasons:

Firstly, it fosters **self-expression** and relieves stress. Similar to art, a musician can play a piece with emotion, like how an artist paints their emotions on a canvas. This has proven to relieve stress and music therapy has been useful in treating children with autism, depression and other disorders. Some students are sometimes pressured and stressed by the work load given to them; music could be therapeutic for them, and that gives them a retreat.

Secondly, learning a musical instrument teaches children **discipline** and develops **perseverance**. Learning to play an instrument needs time and effort, and disciplines musicians as learning how to play an instrument would have some challenging parts, as well as some which are not as hard. Practising and working on the hard parts instead of the easier parts requires discipline, as it would be tempting to give up.

Some arguments on this debate have stated that music does not make you cleverer, which leads me to my third argument.

Studies have shown that it increases your mathematical ability as reading music involves counting notes and rhythms which help math skills.

In addition to that, playing a musical instrument increases the capacity of your memory. Research has shown that playing an instrument stimulates the brain and increases your memory, and the parts of the brain that store your memory actually *grow and become more active*.

Moreover, playing a musical instrument also increases coordination. For example, when playing a piece, the brain must subconsciously convert that note into specific motor patterns as well as paying attention to breathing and the rhythm.

My fourth argument is that music exposes children to cultural history. Often, music reflects its environment and times of its creation. Therefore, children would learn of multiple types of music, classical traditions, folk music and medieval among many others. Music can be a large part of history, and has backgrounds which can further your appreciation for different cultures.

However, music does not just improve your knowledge, it **also boosts your team skills**. Team skills are an important aspect to being successful in life, and playing an instrument requires

working with others to create music. In order for a group to make beautiful music, they would need to be able to work together and listen to each other.

Therefore, playing an instrument also increases your social skills. Playing an instrument can enhance these skills, as some of the best people join orchestras and bands, it's very common to gain lifelong friendships from musical activities such as these.

My final argument is that music can promote *happiness* in children and others around them. Playing an instrument is exciting and creates a sense of achievement, and hearing the crowd applaud after playing is honourable and gratifying to see the appreciation and happiness in people's faces due to the playing.

In conclusion, music may be challenging but the end result is worth children's perseverance and effort. Music is not only therapeutic, but improves many skills which may help them in the future.”

*Comment from Global Classroom, Debate Manager, Lucy Smith:*

*This post is beautifully written, with some skillful use of language that is persuasive and believable. You could increase credibility even further by referencing your sources, but the structure and clarity of this post is impressive. Well done.*