

Plato's main arguments for music education focused on the effects of music education on the personality of the pupil and the impact of the performance on the general public. I found it interesting that Plato emphasized the effect of music education on the personality and of speech on musical ability. He first states that "the rhythm and harmony follow the words and not the words these" (*Republic II*, pg. 11). I spoke when I was seven months old. I believe it was because my mother is a singer and I heard music since before I was born. Plato obviously did not have as actually enables speech instead of the other way around. I was in much more agreement with his statement about "youths" and involvement in music.

"And so your youths, said I, employing that simple music which we said engendered sobriety will, it is clear, guard themselves against falling into the need of the justice of the courtroom." (*Republic III*, pg. 13)

Plato believes that when young people are involved in music, they will be less likely to get involved in criminal activities. I agree with him in that music teaches children skills, such as dedication, work ethic, and social skills, which are beneficial to them both as students and members of society.

Aristotle was a bit more humorous in his opinions. I saw an immediate difference in his writing style and his opinions, even though he was a student of Plato. He agreed with Plato in that music education has "some influence over the character and soul" (*Nichomachean Ethics*, Bk. IV, pg. 40). He goes so far as to state that "children should have something to do" and that music education is best suited for the young (*Nichomachean Ethics*, Bk. IV, pg. 41). I think that Aristotle is correct in that music education is very healthy for young children, but I don't think that it is *only* for young people. It's never too late to learn to be a musician. I believe that everyone is born with musical intuition, and that it is the early music teacher's job to help that

child realize that they will have their musicianship for the rest of their lives. I really respected Aristotle's view on music being relaxing and leisurely activity. We are so wrapped up in music education being performance or standard driven, and sometimes we forget to enjoy what we do and recognize it as a relaxing and enjoyable activity.

Reimer's first connection to the great philosophers was his statement about music education and the need for a set of belief to "guide the efforts of the group" (Reimer, pg. 2). This is related to Plato's beliefs in being a positive member of society. If the entire profession of music educators has a similar set of beliefs, similar goals for music education will be met. This will allow music teachers to give students the most opportunities to better themselves as musicians, and develop qualities that are beneficial to them as members of society. Obviously every music educator is not going to have the exact same beliefs, but Reimer believes that we can make an effort to show society what values music education can offer to society. I also agreed with Reimer's eighth characteristic of aesthetic education. "...Whatever the culture, music shapes individual and communal experience into unique meanings able to be created and shared by those who participate in that culture" (Reimer, pg. 11) I love the idea that music shapes not only the performers but the society to which it is performed. I think this is both related to Plato and Aristotle's view that society is shaped by the music that is performed. Not only are the students or musicians being educated, but the audience is also being aurally musically educated.