



**February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

To whom it may concern:

I have a passion to teach music and believe in providing an interactive environment where I can share this with students, enthusiastically engaging them in their learning. I believe in instilling my students with not only a love for music but also with an understanding of how truly important it is in culture and society, allowing us to wholly participate as active citizens in the community.

The reason that every child must have an education in music is that music is woven into fabric of our society. The intrinsic value of music for each individual is widely recognised in the many cultures that make up Australia, benefiting our national and individual identity.

I refer to the follow website outlining 4 of the main benefits: Success in Society, Success in School, Success in developing intelligence, and Success in Life. <http://www.childrensmusicworkshop.com/advocacy/benefits.html>

The music programs at both Noble Park and Carrum Downs Secondary Colleges where I work are an integral part of the Colleges for the staff, students and wider community. Music provides the opportunity for students to work in a structured and disciplined way, both individually and in teams. Learning an instrument teaches students in a very simple and logical way, how to break down the learning process and reconstruct the learnt information. An example of this the way a difficult piece of music must be learnt in small sections (even as small as bars), then learnt with all the detail, and reconstructed as a whole. Once students who learn music can work in this way, the ideas and methodology can be applied not only to their development in music but their development in all subjects. Music is also very mathematical in its purest form, due to: rhythm, beat, pitch, and dynamics just to name a few. It continually grounds basics of counting, rhythm, beat through an auditory medium. It also has the visual aspect using different symbols broken down into bars. This enhances student development in traditional maths and numeracy subjects.

Music programs are also great for students to get involved in the extra-curricular aspects of any school, diversifying and balancing their overall learning and wellbeing. Students who participate in the music programs learn how to work co-operatively in ensembles and build positive relationships with their peers and teachers. As result of students working in a variety of different ensemble, regular performances and concerts showcase their development and achievement. I have taken many of the student ensembles that I direct or work with to perform in the wider community, which enriches the local community. For example some of these include: taking a primary school choir to perform at an ANZAC Day ceremony, taking a secondary college choir to do a short performance at Noble Park aged care, taking Carrum Down Secondary College Concert Band to perform at a community performance day, and taking a band to perform at local primary schools. I have also

organised interschool ensemble days where two ensembles from different schools have combined together for performances and workshops sharing ideas and knowledge.

We are trying to expand the program at Carrum Downs Secondary College and would be very appreciative if you would like to come out and see the great things happening within the music program and its benefits to the students, staff, College, and wider community.

- Kind Regards, Greig Douglas. BMus, Grad Dip Ed (Sec)  
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