

HOW TO SABOTAGE A MUSIC PROGRAM

a bit of hopefully illustrative sarcasm by © SLM, IGNA 1997... 2-3 Millennium

I thought it might be instructive to discuss the means by which you, yes *you*, can easily sabotage and potentially destroy your Music program. Here are some key steps:

Never show the kids the inner workings of *any* process or concept. Keep them at bay by using method books, and always if possible, take weeks, even months to show them something which can be taught in one 42-minute period.

Never teach the kids about Tuning and Intonation. **Never** provide them with the specific methodology to achieve and continually refine Tuning and Intonation. Why work? No pain, no gain.

When you rehearse, never practice basic Musicianship. Instead, keep slamming away, as drill oriented as possible, the plethora of trite, mediocre pieces which nevertheless appeal to the easily-seduced and lazy. Because the kids lack Musicianship skills, always choose pieces of Music which hide as many of the problems in your band as possible. Heck, why go through all the trouble of having different instruments and colours in an interesting interplay when you can just have everyone playing the same thing all of the time? All that “interesting” stuff is more difficult to drill. It’s just not worth it. Besides, the kids aren’t “good” enough to do such things.

Whatever you do, please, please, *please* be inconsistent. When you speak, make sure that at least some small portion of your group is speaking and making noise too. In this way, the kids can become habituated to a constant state of disorganization and chaos... all *wonderful* conditions in which to sabotage your Music program. **Never** demand silence. **Never** ask for self-discipline. When you ask the kids to attend a 6 pm rehearsal, make sure it starts at any moment **AFTER** 6:00:00:00. Consistently display your inconsistency. It will serve as a great model for the behavior necessary to instill sabotage.

Whenever you get any kind of funding, be sure to spend it on tons of sound equipment. This way you can take your out-of-tune band and amplify it.

Be sure to go on plenty of trips, and please be sure to select Music which, though far beyond the kids’ actual abilities, are nevertheless good titles for your programs. Be able to print on T-shirts and proudly proclaim, “*Oh yes, we did the Mahler, and we did the Stravinsky.*”

If possible try to take large, meaningful, carefully crafted works by noted composers and do them in an 8 minute field show. There’s nothing better for sabotaging Music! Be sure to devise websites saying things like, “*We Did Stravinsky!*” Lies are extremely useful in establishing the destruction of Music and summarily, the exquisite sabotage of your program.

Perhaps the best way for achieving the dissolution of Music is this. Do everything you do for the purposes of the “concert”. Concerts justify why important things don’t get taught. Time is just too short! I know that Einstein had the same 24 hour day as all of us, but still, did he work in the schools? There’s just not enough time to teach careful tuning, insistent intonation... *Musicianship*. Be a “coach”, *not* a Musician. Be an “instructor”... and *not* an Educator.

And let us not forget “politics”. At all costs, come up with a political reason why you just can’t do something which is truly meaningful. Find excuses to cheat your students from the discipline and work ethic they need to truly experience Music. When they fail, blame it on **REALITY!** Reality is a great excuse for all would-be saboteurs! Learn to rely on it at all costs! It can explain away all forms of laziness on your part. Tuning is fine for the “ivory tower”, but here in the trenches!?

For still yet greater levels of sabotage, take whatever Time you might have dedicated to useless things like practice, or even Teaching, and join an internet chat group that demeans colleagues with rumor and innuendo. Even the spineless need an outlet. And, after all, isn’t it better to prepare your students for the Real music business by illustrating successful methods for back-stabbing?

Employing any or all of these techniques will guarantee a well sabotaged program! In your important, clandestine and uninformed proceedings, Devilspeed!