

Foreword

Frank L. Battisti

Conductor Emeritus, New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble

Music and the Arts are important! They encourage individuals to feel, think, and solve problems creatively, and to arrive at conclusions and answers in unique ways. Collaborative music making experiences magnify the common denominators and diminish the differences between people—it brings them closer together. Music, like reading, math and science, should be part of every young person’s education and life.

Effective and inspiring music teachers combine a love of music with a passion for sharing it with others. Their love of music compels them to select and use music that is “truthful”—the real thing—not surrogate mediocre, uninspired pseudo-music pieces. The performance of excellent quality music offers the best means by which students can discover and feel the awesome power of music—to become “music lovers.”

The mission of the music teacher is to assist students in discovering music. In order to do this they must inspire, impart knowledge, teach skills, and guide students to an understanding and appreciation of music. Only if music is taught as “an art,” where students learn, create and express in a unique manner (different than in other curricular subjects), can it be considered a necessary component in a student’s education and development.

Evan Feldman, Ari Contzius and Mitch Lutch in their new book, *Instrumental Music Education: Teaching with the Musical and Practical in Harmony*, examine factors involved in teaching instrumental music—specifically, practical musical and pedagogical knowledge and skills, a “sound to symbol” teaching system, basic musicianship training, selection of music, rehearsal and classroom procedures and management, student assessment and evaluation, administrative responsibilities, and personal and professional development of the teacher.

There are many fine publications about teaching instrumental music. However, none are as comprehensive as *Instrumental Music Education: Teaching with the Musical and Practical in Harmony*. All teachers, both young and experienced, will find this book very valuable.