

## **TOP TEN LIST # 1**

### **BENEFITS OF GIVING YOUR CHILD THE GIFT OF MUSIC**

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#### **1. Playing music makes you smarter.**

Music is math. Children process more math while playing a single song than their friends do in a week. Decades of reputable studies show that children who study music average at least 36% higher math scores, 22% higher verbal scores, and 12% higher IQ scores.

#### **2. Playing music fosters personal growth.**

It inspires children to become more accepting of challenge. It improves self-esteem and self-confidence. It enhances creativity. It bolsters feelings of pride and accomplishment.

#### **3. Playing music relieves tension and anxiety.**

Playing an instrument just feels good! It's relaxing, soothing, and helps calm the mind. It also helps to relieve anger and frustration.

#### **4. Playing music is fun!**

Kids enjoy expressing themselves and music is one of the best vehicles for self-expression going!

#### **5. Music instruction develops skills needed in the 21st century workplace.**

These include critical thinking, creative problem solving, self-confidence, and goal setting.

#### **6. Playing music is communication.**

It's expression. It teaches about feelings and intuitive understanding. It can bring families closer together.

#### **7. Playing music teaches about goals and goal achievement.**

This lesson is driven home every time a piece is undertaken and eventually mastered.

#### **8. Playing music teaches children to be comfortable before others.**

It teaches poise and confidence. It provides the perfect means to overcome one's natural tendencies toward "stage-fright."

#### **9. Playing music helps children feel special!**

#### **10. Music is magic!**

When a child can take a piece of wood and metal, a piece of paper with black dots on it, stir in some talent, and with these create something that can make people feel feelings, it is a thrill like no other.

## TOP TEN LIST # 2

### WHY CHOOSE THE GUITAR?

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#### 1. Guitars are inexpensive.

Student guitars cost as little as \$100 — far less than comparable wind instruments and pianos. Because the guitar is so popular (and so many are sold), the price remains low.

#### 2. Guitars are easy to buy.

You can find them anywhere. Even department stores like Walmart carry affordable guitars. And they're basic. No high-level knowledge is required in making the purchase.

#### 3. Guitars are portable.

They can be practiced on and played anywhere. Your child's bedroom, the back porch, camping, Christmas at Grandma's.

#### 4. Guitars are quieter.

The tone of a guitar is "transparent," that is, it is less disruptive to other goings-on at home. Quite different than the "honk" of a saxophone or the blaring tone of a trumpet.

#### 5. Guitars are easier to care for.

Just wipe the strings clean with a dry cloth each day, have a music store put on a new set of strings (\$6 — \$7) a couple of times a year and that's it.

#### 6. Guitars are complete instruments.

They are capable of playing both melody and background chords — even at the same time. No wind instrument can play more than one note at a time. Guitars can be played alone, and they're the perfect accompaniment to a singing voice or other instrument.

#### 7. Guitars teach more.

Because they can play melodies and chords (wind instruments can only play melodies), guitarists inevitably learn more about music theory than almost any other instrumentalist.

#### 8. Guitars are easier to learn.

They require far less of that "frustration break-in period" most wind instrumentalists must endure during which nothing sounds right. Guitar students are usually playing real songs in just a few weeks.

#### 9. Guitars are cool.

They just are. And this is important to children. This makes the guitar the most likely instrument that a child is going to want to play for friends.

#### 10. Guitars are forever.

The guitar is an instrument children will likely take with them through life. Not many adults play clarinet or trombone as a hobby. Whether for fun, self-expression, or a creative outlet, the guitar is much more likely to "stick."

## TOP TEN LIST # 3

### WHY CHOOSE THE PIANO?

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#### 1. The piano IS music.

The notes are laid out visually and in alphabetical order. Everything about music just makes more sense than on any other instrument, where notes are laid out in series of abstract fingerings. Bottom line: pianists tend to understand music better.

#### 2. The piano lets you play the whole song, not just a part.

Pianos (and guitars) are the only instruments capable of playing melodies and chords (background parts) at the same time. Playing or practicing alone yields a song, not just one part. And, of course, you can sing along while playing the piano.

#### 3. The piano sounds beautiful.

Its tone is appealing to just about anyone. The sound of a piano in the house is pleasant, and, unlike violins and wind instruments, never off-key.

#### 4. Pianos are quieter.

The tone of a piano is “transparent,” that is, it is less disruptive to other goings-on at home. Quite different than the “honk” of a saxophone or the blaring tone of a trumpet.

#### 5. A piano is easy to care for.

Just keep it clean, get it tuned once a year, and that’s it.

#### 6. Pianos can play any style of music.

Okay, except for parades, the piano fits anywhere. Classical, jazz, blues, rock and roll, you name it. Try playing The Beatles or Elton John on a clarinet.

#### 7. Pianos teach more.

Because they can play melodies and chords (wind instruments can only play melodies), pianists inevitably learn more about music theory than almost any other instrumentalist.

#### 8. The piano is easier to get started with.

They require far less of that “frustration break-in period” most wind instrumentalists must endure during which nothing sounds right. Piano students are usually playing real songs within just a few weeks.

#### 9. Electronic keyboards make a perfectly fine substitute.

When space is limited and funds are tight, an electronic keyboard is fine. And at only \$150 or less, a smart move if you're not sure your child will ultimately stick with it.

#### 10. Pianos are forever.

The piano is an instrument children will likely take with them through life. Not many adults play clarinet or trombone as a hobby. Whether for fun, self-expression, or a creative outlet, the piano is much more likely to “stick.”

## **TOP TEN LIST #4: WHY STAN MUNSLOW?**

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**1. B.M. degree from Berklee College of Music, summa cum laude.**

Located in Boston, Berklee is the world's top school of contemporary music.

**2. 28 years' experience as a full-time private and classroom music instructor,** including years of teaching experience at the prodigious Moses Brown Academy in Providence, RI.

**3. Member of the Modern Music Master Society.**

**4. Stan is all about kids.**

Though he has taught students of all ages, Stan's forte and passion is working with children. He says, "To me, teaching music is about kids, not notes. It's about enriching the life of a child by helping her discover the joy, satisfaction, and confidence that creative self-expression can bring. Bottom line: If a tune doesn't have a proud smile following it, it's nothing but sound."

**5. Stan is a working professional musician of over 30 years' experience.**

He doesn't just teach it, he *lives* it.

**6. Years of experience as a professional speaker.**

Stan has the ability to explain things in ways that are clear, concise, interesting, and inspiring.

**7. Stan teaches a complete music lesson.**

Knowledge and technique, certainly. But Stan also works hard to make the lessons fun and he includes a good dose of positive energy and encouragement.

**8. Stan's background is enormously diverse.**

Performing on stage, in concert halls and rock clubs, live TV and radio, recording studios and even parades. He is a composer and arranger. He played wind instruments in school bands and has hosted dozens of student recitals. His well-rounded background in music adds depth, balance, and interest to his lessons.

**9. Stan has written several music instruction books for students of all ages.**

**10. Stan is laid-back and gentle.**

Kids feel comfortable with him. Never pushed, condescended, or criticized.