

western, musical theatre, and religious music. What was learned in music education classes (general music, ensembles, and private instruction) had a lasting effect, both in subsequent activities that were selected and in the opinions and attitudes that were formed. Music-making skill on an instrument was valued throughout life, particularly an instrument such as the piano or organ (or perhaps a synthesizer keyboard) that could be played independently.

Music educators have an opportunity in extending their services to older adults who represent a vital musical community. Learning styles, preferences, funding, and scheduling are important considerations, as they are in working with any population. In addition, older adults can serve as resources, not so much in offering specific advice, but in their broad perspective about the function of music throughout life and its implications for music goals and curricula in the schools.

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