Music Interview Questions
by Paul K. Fox, Upper St. Clair School District Performing Arts Curriculum Leader and Director of Strings/Orchestras

**Instructional**

1. Educational/Philosophy
   a. Define a superior music teacher.
   b. What is the rationale and role of music education in the middle school curriculum?
   c. To you, what is most important, music content, outcome or process?

2. Knowledge/Education
   a. Which units would you include in 7th grade general music?
   b. Describe a successful lesson plan you have developed.
   c. List a few selections you might program on your next choral concert.

3. Classroom Management
   a. What have you found to be the toughest aspect of class discipline?
   b. What rules and expectations would you establish in your classroom?
   c. How will you control behavior in large ensembles?

4. Technology
   a. How will you incorporate technology in your classroom?
   b. Summarize a list of software programs and other technology you have mastered.

5. Oral Expression
   a. Describe your strengths in oral communications and public relations.
   b. What sample announcements would you make in your a) daily classes or b) at concerts?

6. Written Expression
   a. What role does reading and writing have in the general music curriculum?
   b. Describe your last or favorite college essay on music or curriculum.

**Professional**

7. Leadership
   a. Describe your leadership style.
   b. How would you involve students in the decision-making or planning of your classes?

8. Teamwork
   a. How would you involve parents in your music program?
   b. What kinds of partnerships or collaborations would you encourage with your peers?

9. Judgment
   a. How would your musical peers describe you?
   b. How do you model professionalism and judgment in dealing with conflict?

10. Problem Solving/Decision Making
    a. How do you handle the different ability levels in your general music classes?
    b. Describe a difficult decision you have had to make and how you arrived at your decision.
    c. How do you feel about students wanting to be in both music and sports? How will you handle schedule conflicts?

11. Planning and Organization
    a. How do you insure that long term plans and music objectives are met?
    b. Describe a typical musical production schedule.

12. Innovation
    a. How would you structure a music classroom of the future?
    b. Share an anecdote about a new or innovative teaching technique you used in music.
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Personal
13. Initiative
   a. Describe a project you initiated in your teaching or extra-curricular activity.
   b. What motivates you to try new things?
   c. How much time outside the school day should a music teacher be willing to work?
14. Dependability
   a. What after-school activities do you plan to become involved?
   b. How would you define professional commitment in terms of music education?
15. Adaptability
   a. How do you cope with stress?
   b. What one aspect of your personality would you change to get along better with people?
   c. How do you manage shifting priorities or changing deadlines?
16. Self-insight and Development
   a. Why did you choose to become a music teacher?
   b. In your own music-making or music teaching, of which are you most proud?
   c. If you could write a book, what would the title be?
17. Energy and Enthusiasm
   a. What are your hobbies that may influence activities, programs or projects you may do?
   b. In what extra-curricular activities did you participate at the HS and college level?