

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?