

Address to the Colorado Music Educators Association

Music in the Schools Week Celebration

**Denver Center for the
Performing Arts**
March 12, 1988
by Dr. Lorenzo A. Trujillo

Marguerite V. Hood, Professor of Music stated,

In science, when something new is developed, it immediately replaces what preceded it. The old is discarded for the newer, more efficient, speedier and truer. In music and the arts we seldom discard the products of an old idea because we have found a new medium or technique. Probably this is because we are dealing more with feelings--human hopes, despairs and conclusions that are always with us. They belong to every age. What is worthwhile in artistic expression about them lasts. And so we have a market for old paints--Rembrandt in the days of space travel. And we have a love for Bach's rich baroque melodies in time of automation, computers and systems engineering...So we still enjoy Turner's painting of the early steam locomotive. But the first steam engine as an engine will not hold an active place in life.

The arts are forever. They will outlast all of our temporal conflicts and fleeting time periods. It is a pleasure to address you this afternoon and to welcome you. This celebration in honor of music in the schools presents a showcase of the fine talented young musicians that we have in our schools. The numerous hours that are invested by each student translate into a majestic pageantry of sound that illuminates and raises the glory of the human spirit.

I remember with precise clarity my days in band and orchestra. Especially vivid are the visions I have of marching in parades and recording for an album we made when I was a student at Ranum Senior High School. Yes, there were many hours of practice and rehearsal. But the enjoyment of it all has served to develop my love and understanding of music and its role in our quality of life as a society.

I still play in an orchestra, The Rocky Mountain Chamber Orchestra. I love the feel of my violin and the sound it can produce if properly caressed. But more, it provides me with some very special moments of timelessness into that vast sphere of eternity, where time becomes meaningless. This is very important to me because of the demands of my work that have made time to be such a controlling influence in my life. Everything seems to revolve around time and there just simply isn't enough of it. Yet, when I am with my violin, time melts into eternity and we just enjoy.

As a society, we devote considerable thought to the quality of our life and to our health. I believe that music may provide an answer to many of the questions we seek answers to in our contemplations. For music lifts the human spirit to rejoice.

In closing, I will reiterate the words of John Kennedy:

Aeschyles and Plato are remembered today long after the triumphs of imperial Athens have gone, Dante has outlived the ambitions of 13th century Florence, Goethe stands serenely alone above the politics of Germany, and I am certain that when the dust of centuries has blown over our cities; we, too, will be remembered, not for our victories or defeats in war or politics, but for our contributions to the human spirit.

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH ACTIVITIES

[Editor's note: On March 12, 1988, at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts there was an unusual series of music performances and speeches; these are listed below. This unique event was sponsored by the station KCNC, Channel 4; the Colorado Music Educators Association; The Denver Symphony Orchestra; and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Each performing group sang or played for about 22 minutes.