

Kathleen Klosterman  
MUSE 356- Choral Methods

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Chapter 2- Developing a Philosophy for the Music Program  
Kenneth H. Phillips  
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Discussion Question

2. What are the nine national standards for music education, and what is the first of the standards?

The nine national standards are, in order:

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Playing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
7. Evaluating music and music performances
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Of all these standards, singing is the first one. It has been the core of the music curriculum since Lowell Mason days, and continues to be of tremendous importance today. The objective is to teach all children to sing, and that has not been successful. Music educators need to learn to instruct their students in a way that will teach them to sing better. Teachers need to strive to help all students learn in their best possible ways, and teaching them how to sing should be of the greatest importance. They also need to show those students, schools, and communities why singing is such an important activity. Singing is of great importance in developing comprehensive musicianship, but should be intermixed with the other eight standards.