

Music: Giving You the Edge



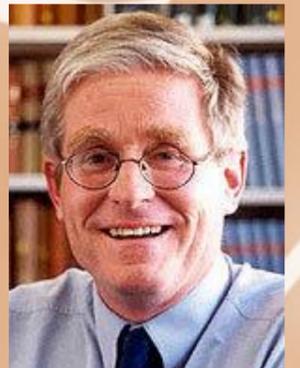
"Some of the most successful and skilled doctors I know have continued their musical interests and they all speak passionately about how it has helped deal with the constant pressures of practicing medicine.

Your students may be quite surprised to learn that medicine can be routine and repetitive at times and having music as a creative release in my opinion leads to much healthier, well rounded and dedicated doctors who can switch to their creative side when needed. We have some extraordinarily talented musicians in our medical classes and we even have our own medical school string quartet.

To be able to tell your interviewers when applying for medical entry that you are a skilled musician does no harm at all. It tells us that you have other interests, you are focused and dedicated (lots and lots of practice) and you have a creative side. It doesn't guarantee you a place but is the sort of thing we look for in well rounded medical students."

Professor John Fraser
Dean, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.
The University of Auckland

"A number of our best law students have studied music to a senior level. I have no doubt that the discipline required to study music and the brain development which the study of music enhances are a major asset for studying law and other disciplines."



Professor Mark Henaghan
Dean of Law
University of Otago

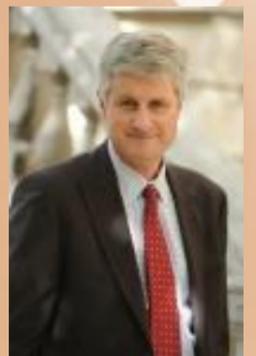


"I am a great believer that it is most important that students study what they enjoy and seeing where that takes them. I see too many students who have been "pushed" into health sciences by well meaning parents and schools whose real passion is elsewhere.

Finally, the students who should be thinking of doing law or the health professions are usually the academically most able. They can be stretched and taking music or other art subjects will help them to be better rounded individuals. There is also some limited evidence that students who enter into medicine with a humanities background do better during the course and make "better" doctors!"

Professor Helen Nicholson
Dean, Otago School of Medical Sciences

"Music and other creative pursuits are very important and I strongly encourage our medical students not to let their extracurricular interests fall to one side as a result of course pressures. My view is that in order to be a good health professional it is necessary to be a good person, and to be a good person requires the active pursuit of balance in one's professional life, family life, art, music, sport etc."



Prof Peter Crampton,
Pro-Vice-Chancellor,
Division of Health Sciences & Dean, Faculty of Medicine,
University of Otago



"The entrance system is very different now of course, but I am a strong advocate for the role of music for health professional students. Apart from producing more well-rounded professionals who can engage more widely with life in general, the transferable skills that come with a musical background are invaluable. Parents are often focussed only on what they think will help the student get into the course, but they should also consider the broader education of their child because, let's face it, most of them will not get into medicine. Regarding music specifically, key transferrable skills include pattern recognition, abstract thinking, appreciation of other cultures, analytical skills, study organization skills, self-management and motivation, listening skills, numeracy, creativity (essential if people want to go on and do research), and written communication and argument development skills from essay writing."

Prof Sunny C Collings
Dean and Head of Campus
University of Otago Wellington

"We find that many of the top students who come into medicine have interests and capacities in the sports and cultural fields which provide a social and creative outlet. You may know, for instance, that one of our senior staff members was recently involved in setting up a doctor's orchestra which gave a performance, and there are plans for more. When it comes to looking at some of the scholarships and awards, all round abilities outside medicine in sport or music and leadership involvement in the community add to someone's CV. Doctors have always participated in the arts. Caring for patients involves humanity and creativity as well as science. It would be a pity for someone with talent in a musical area to lose this in pursuit of admission to medical school – it should be treasured!"



Dr John Adams
Dean, Dunedin School of Medicine