

October 3, 1928

I want to talk to you this morning about the music program of the college because there has been some serious misunderstanding about the music. Why teach piano in a teachers college? That question has been asked me many times. It has been asked many times by a person who did not realize the purpose of a teachers training institution.

There is not anything in the world in the way of studies that has a tendency to help a person to reach up to higher and better things than does music. That is the reason we have public school music, that is the reason children are taught to sing. It makes life worthwhile, it adds to life. There are factories in America that furnish music in the factory for the workmen while they are working. They say their workmen give better service, do more work and stay in a better humor when they have music. Music lifts a person above themselves.

Music is everywhere. It is in the heart and soul and life of all normal people and this is a normal school as well as a teachers college. Then from the standpoint of a teachers college music is one of the instruments we can use when we go out to teach. It is a serviceable subject.

If I had my way about it every person would study music. In the home it is a joy to the family, in the school it gives an opportunity that enables you to get the most possible out of your students. If you could take piano, if you had the time, the talent and the money you would find that you could use it in almost any

school in North Carolina.

There are girls who have taught piano after school and made enough to pay for expenses so looking at it from a standpoint of dollars and cents it certainly pays. If you can go to the piano to play a hymn for the opening of school it is helping the school.

Our faculty have worked on this problem since the beginning of school. Those who can afford to take it (by afford I mean financially) I say for any student whether you are taking the two year normal course or whether you are taking the four year course for teaching in the primary, grammar or in the high school you can take it. If you read the catalogue you will see on page 67 - "Students in the two year curriculum may substitute piano for any three hour course provided the substitution is made for only one course of any subject." You can substitute for three hours of English for one quarter. You cannot substitute it for English throughout the whole year and the same is true with reference to any subject. I am afraid some of you have been advised not to do it and if you have, I am sorry for I think the faculty's judgment is better than mine and if I think that, I think it is better than any other one person's. You know when we think somebody else's judgment is better than ours that is about all we can say. Therefore, when I say the faculty has been working on this ever since the college has been established I think they know best.

I want you to take the thing you want to take and the subjects that will be the greatest possible good to you. If you have talent for music I do not want you to bury that talent if you have an opportunity to use it. We are told in the good book of the

man who buried his talent. You can use it to tremendous advantage in the community and in the school.

It is a good thing for the people in the community to get together and have a sing. But if you cannot play the piano then someone else has to do it. If you can become the song leader in one of these song feasts you have worked yourself into that community's life. You have made yourself a worth while citizen in the community and above the good you bring to the community as a teacher you have this other. It is good for you in your work as an individual, as a teacher, as a person of the community.

It is not going to be long if we can persuade the Legislature to give us the funds, until we train for public school music teachers. I am telling you all of this this morning that you may look beyond your nose and be ready to take up that line of activity if you have a talent for it. It is one of the good jobs in the public schools of North Carolina that and training for Physical Education teachers are two things that the college hopes to train teachers for in the near future. It is two lines of activity that will pay well. We are required under the law to meet the demands of the public schools of our state and just as soon as we can we are going to do this.

So if you want to take piano it is not too late to take it this fall term but if you do not want to change and I am not asking you to change but if you want to we have a teaching staff to teach 10 or 12 more students this term.

Robert H. Wright, President