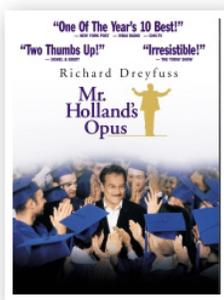




MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS

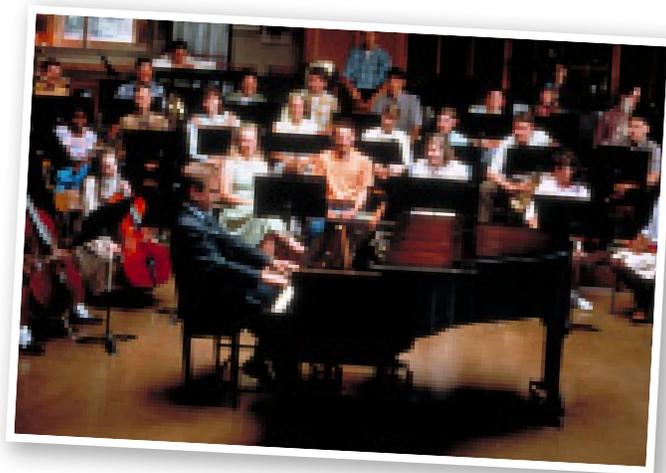


Synopsis

Glenn Holland is a passionate musician who dreams of composing one truly memorable piece of music. But reality intrudes when he reluctantly accepts a "day job" as a high school music teacher to support his family. In time, however, Mr. Holland realizes his real passion is teaching and his legacy is the generations of young people he inspires.

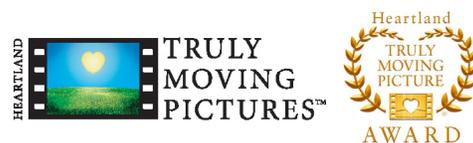
Discussion Questions

- While Mr. Holland never planned on becoming a teacher, it turned out to be a more rewarding experience than he ever imagined. Has life ever thrown an unexpected path your way that ended up being a welcome direction for you? What was that path and how did you discover it?
- Mr. Holland is questioned for his use of teaching Rock & Roll to get his students invested in music. Do you think it is the teacher's role to balance pop culture with exploring the classics and traditional lessons?
- Have you ever invested extra time in someone like Mr. Holland did with Louis Russ or Gertrude Lange? If so, what were the results?
- What teacher impacted you most? Why?
- As a teacher, Mr. Holland invests his time and efforts in his students, but isn't always there for his family, particularly his son. For those who work with youth, how do you balance the needs of the many youth who all need you?
- To be so in love with something your child can't enjoy would be devastating. This film explores some of the hardships that Glenn and Iris go through raising a deaf son. What are some of the unexpected rewards they experience through their trials?



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MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS

Activity

- Music plays such a integral part of everyday life. Whether it is music on the radio, television, or music that we play, there is rarely a moment that we are without this powerful medium. Take the time to simply enjoy music. As a family, explore the rhythms you can play on pots and pans if you don't have traditional instruments in your home. Compile a playlist or CD of your family members' favorite songs and listen to it on car trips. Or explore music as Cole does by feeling the music as you listen to it. You might be surprised by how much differently you can experience music if you really pay attention to it.



Get Involved

Just as in the film, arts and music are endangered in our schools and communities as funding for these programs continues to decline. VH1's Save the Music and Americans for the Arts are both organizations that work to provide all youth with the opportunity to grow up with music and arts, no matter their financial situation.

- Explore the ways to get involved with these programs at www.VH1SaveTheMusic.com and www.ArtsUSA.org. By donating used instruments, writing your Senators and Representatives to support a funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts or by simply donating money, you have the ability to make sure future generations continue to be enriched by arts and music.

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