With apologies to Postman and Weingartner, *Teaching as a Subversive Activity* (1969), from which the first verse of this poem is drawn. The remainder was written by David Myers for presentation at the Society for Music Teacher Education Conference, Greensboro, NC, September 26, 2013.

What did you learn in school today,
Dear little child of mine?
I learned our government must be strong
It’s always right and never wrong
Our leaders are the finest men
And we elect them again and again
That’s what I learned in school.

What did you learn in music today
Dear little child of mine?
A quarter note always gets one beat,
Obeying the conductor is an important feat
Creating music is not my job,
Rather, getting the right notes makes my teacher agog.
That’s what I learned in music today.

I learned to compete, to be the best
Because successful musicians beat out the rest.
They rise to the top when they audition
As the rest of us fall into music perdition.
So I’ll face the facts of my position,
I’m not destined to be a musician.
That’s what I learned in music today.

But wait! A new teacher has come on the scene,
She tells me I’m not a musician has-been.
We make music, some that we have created,
And all the kids are totally elated.
You ask me, what did I learn today,
I learned to be me, to create and to play.
That’s what I learned in music today.

I learned that if I become a physician,
I’ll always be able to be a musician.
Music will feed me and make me more keen
And help me to FEEL as well as to glean,
To express my deep self through musical art
And to know that through music I play a part
In honoring the value of the human heart.

That’s what I learned in music today,
That’s what I learned in school.