

MichMusic Personal Study

A LIFE IN MUSIC

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Michele Weir 2008

THOUGHTS ON LEARNING

You can't be taught anything, however, you can decide to learn. Think of each session as a catalyst; it's just a guideline to help steer you toward meeting your own personal goals. The *most* important stuff is what happens outside the session, not in the session. When you're full time in school or work, it's easy to let your practice time slide to make way for work in academic classes. Don't let this happen! Schedule in practice time - make it a priority.

A USEFUL EQUATION

INSPIRATION + IMAGINATION + CHOICE + ACTION + COMMITMENT
= MOVING YOUR LIFE IN THE DIRECTION YOU DESIRE.

Example:

INSPIRATION: *I LOVE that. It thrills me.*

IMAGINATION: *How can I create the possibility to do/have/be/express/experience/share THAT?*

CHOICE: *I choose to do/have/be/express/experience/share THAT.*

ACTION: *What steps need to be taken for me to do/have/be/express/experience/share THAT?*

COMMITMENT: *I commit to taking the steps that allow me to do/have/be/express/experience/share THAT.*

HOW MUSIC FITS IN YOUR LIFE

A life in music does not necessarily mean you have to make music your *career*. There are various ways to enjoy a life in music:

CAREER (60-100% of your professional time)

You *do* music, in some way, as the primary source of your income.

AVOCATION (60% or less of your professional time)

You *do* music in some way, as a secondary source of income. Part-time.

NON-PROFESSIONAL (Earn little or no income in music)

You are an aficionado of music. A hobbyist. A student. A supporter. An enthusiast. A mentor. An amateur musician. An ex-professional musician. Or all of the above.

DIRECTIONS IN MUSIC

Arranger	Professor	Author
Composer	Private Teacher	Music Publisher
Songwriter	Music Copyist	Music Lawyer
Reviewer/Journalist	Recording Engineer	
Lyricist	Music Therapist	
Performer	Stage Hand	
Record Industry Executive	Manager	
Conductor	Arts Administrator	
Church Musician	Technician	
Historian	Club Owner	
Music Software Developer	Producer	
Musicologist	Concert Promoter	
Instrument Repair	Agent	
Librarian	Merchant	

GOALS

Setting goals and then making a commitment to meet them is your ticket to creating the *life in music* that you want. Goals can be created in various shapes and sizes:

SHORT TERM

("I'm going to practice piano 30 minutes today.")

MEDIUM TERM

("By the end of summer 2008 I will have finished my first vocal jazz arrangement.")

LONG TERM

("Within the next 10 years I'll secure a position as conductor of a major symphony orchestra.")

TIPS FOR MEETING A GOAL

1. WANT IT

Setting a goal starts with the desire for it. Meeting a goal is much easier if you're hungry for it. Take care in choosing your goals.

2. WRITE IT DOWN

The simple act of writing down your goals makes them much more real. This is the first step in actualizing your goal. Also, tell someone about your goal.

3. FIGURE THINGS OUT

Don't let "*I don't know how to do it*" be a good enough reason to stop you. If you don't know how to do something, go figure it out. Much of life needs to be *figured out*; get used to this idea. Go on the internet and research it. Listen to a recording of it. Go to the library or bookstore. Ask someone. Ask many people thru an email broadcast to your friends. Ask someone you don't even know, but you think might have the answer.

4. BREAK IT DOWN TO BITE-SIZED PIECES

So, you want to learn to play the Ukulele by the end of the year so you can sing songs while accompanying yourself. What steps need to be taken?

- a. Buy a ukulele
- b. Locate the ukulele teachers in your area, and contact them to determine qualifications, availability, fees.
- c. Set up lesson times with the teacher for a reasonable period, say for one month.
- d. Set up (and write down) a practice schedule for yourself. SPECIFIC days/times you'll practice each week. Write them into your calendar.
- e. At the end of the first month, reassess: is this teacher working out well for me? Am I devoting to much/too little time to practice? Do I need to make alterations in the content of my practice?
- f. Make adjustments as necessary, and schedule in more specific lesson and practice dates/times.

5. MAKE A COMMITMENT

All the goal setting in the world won't make a difference until you master the art of *follow thru*. Follow thru is not difficult - it's actually just a choice you make. Practice

They are not static; they are always growing, learning, evolving
They have an *I can* attitude
They are realistic about setting and meeting goals
They roll with the punches
They are unique; you get a clear sense of *who they are*
Their lives are generally balanced in these areas: intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual

Available at the MichMusic Store

(www.michmusic.com)

Vocal Jazz Arrangements:

SATB, SSAA and Christmas

Jazz Piano Handbook: Book/CD set, Alfred Publishing

Jazz Singer's Handbook: Book/CD set, Alfred Publishing

Vocal Improvisation: Book/CD set, Advance Music Publishing

CDs: *Night in the City* (Phil Mattson and the pm singers)

Jubilee (Phil Mattson and the pm singers)

The Sound of Music (Bruce Forman and Michele Weir)

MichMusic Personal Study: A mentorship program for singers and teachers. Internet conferencing sessions available.

(*Read more about it at www.michmusic.com*)