**BECOMING AN ARTIST TEACHER**

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***I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist***

***and that there are as few as there are any other great artists.***

***Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since***

***the medium is the human mind and spirit.***

**— John Steinbeck in “On Teaching”**

A **PRINCIPLE 1**. THE ARTIST TEACHER HAS THE ABILITY, GIFT OR SKILL TO BRING PEOPLE INSIDE THEIR WORLD OF ARTISTRY.

B WHY IS IT SUCH A CHALLENGE?

1. We focus on what we can measure
2. Notes…intonation…articulation…dynamics…rhythm…precision…etc…
3. We fail to focus on how the music makes us…and our students…feel
4. Our quest becomes the measuring if craft.

C **PRINCIPLE 2.** EMBRACING THE DIFFERENCT BETWEEN KNOWING AND FEELING.

1. Our craft is the knowing.
2. Our artistry…our heart…what is inside us…is the feeling
3. Without feeling the knowing is valueless.

D **PRINCIPLE 3.** EXPANDING AND DEEPENING ONE’S ARTISTRY

1. Cultivate a lifelong passion for growth
2. Make room for depth…. not just breadth
3. Maintain a “Growth Bucket List.”

E **PRINCIPLE 4.** THE RICHNESS OF HUMAN INTERACTION

1. Your environment fuels your potential for growth.
2. If you are smartest person in the room spend some time in another room.
3. You become the average of the five people you spend the most time with.
4. Find opportunities to be with older, wiser people.
5. If you want to be a better golfer don’t have lunch with average players.
6. Remember that life is a Do It Yourself project.

F **PRINCIPLE 5.** THE QUEST FOR MUSICAL GROWTH **FACT!** YOUR MUSICAL DEPTH DEFINES WHAT YOU BRING TO YOUR STUDENTS.

1. Listen! Listen! Listen!
2. Music that affirms your artistry
3. Music that challenges your tastes and or your comfort zone.
4. Multiple recordings of same piece – strive to become art focused.
5. Music that encapsulates other genres

G **PRINCIPLE 6.** THE MERIT OF THEFT

H “*STEAL LIKE AN RTIST” –*Austin Kleon – Workman Press

I **PRINCIPLE 7.** THE NECESSITY OF REFLECTION

1. Reflection is not….

Asking yourself if you did a good job

Asking yourself what your students learned

Assessing your technical progress

Measuring your progress towards your performance goals.

1. Reflection is…

Reflecting on past music with an artistic focus. It’s not about the notes.

Practicing feelingful listening.

Divorcing yourself from your craft.

Insightful meditation.

J THE MORE REFLECTIVE YOU ARE, THE MORE EFFECTIVE YOU ARE

K ARTISTRY EXEMPLIFIED

1. The outside out conductor.
2. The inside in conductor in conductor
3. An inside in conductor with feelingful reflection

L THE ART OF TEACHING IS THE ART OF ASSISTING DISCOVERY.

-Mark Van Doren (1894-1972)– American pet, writer and critic.

***STRIVE TO BE THE TEACHER YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN FROM AND***

***STRIVE TO BE THE CONDUCTOR YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY FOR.***

***Richard Floyd***