

All-State: The Mastery of Music: Ten Pathways to True Artistry

presented by Barry Green — reported by Connie Aiken

In *10 Pathways to the Mastery of Music*, a DVD featuring interviews with top artists on pertinent musical topics, Barry Green explores how musicians engage their *whole* selves in music when performing. These conversations flesh out concepts presented in *The Inner Game of Music*: concentration, performance, and a focus that is not distracted by the end result (the outer game). The following list summarizes the 7 pathways that Barry Green shared with us.

Communication:

The Silent Pulse. Communication involves more than gesture and physical cues in the other performers; the cues come from within the music. The inner pulse flows like white water rafting: unique, recreated each day, and derived from the piece's phrasing.

Courage:

Choosing the High Road. Performing with confidence is not about courage, it is about choice. Courage = sincerity = conviction. Courage comes when a performance is open and honest to the most absolute extremes

possible.

Discipline:

The Way of the Will. Playing fast does not equate with movement, a rush from note to note. To play with facility, one works on 1-2 notes slowly enough to allow the brain to take in everything, feel every note, let fingers melt, and remove all "garbage" between the notes until they sing. "Think, hear, feel" until each note is a pearl in an exquisite necklace.

Passion:

The Power of Love. *All* of life inspires musicians to play with beauty, love and expression. Musicians need to grow beyond the practice room through great literature, visual art, wilderness wonders, and even seeing the plight of the human condition.

Tolerance:

A View From the Middle. (Interviews with orchestra managers and violists—the experts of the middle vantage point!) Working with musicians involves conflict.

Without a congenial approach to gigs, one will never be hired. How should one handle conflict? Be agreeable on the outside and a tiger on the inside. Know that no one takes away who you are.

Creative Process:

The Journey Into the Soul. *Listen*. Take all of life seriously. Notice everything, feel the pulse of daily life and put it in your music.

Ego and Humility:

From Fame to Artistry. Success—stuff, outward achievement, praise by others—does not make us special. We are successful by going beyond notes/technique to music, being who we are, and expressing ourselves as people.

Teachers open doors for students to see life a new way. Barry concluded by reminding us that we are in the *joy* business of nurturing life skills. In our competitive world, he challenged us to risk correctness for expression that shares ourselves.

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