

Career Goals

I want to talk for a moment about something I feel I left out of the video. It's about opportunity and persistence.

One of my favorite concert pianists grew up with a father that was a concert pianist and a mother that was a piano teacher. She started study at the age of 3 and gave her first recital at the age of 6 which was very good. She now has many recordings and is busy with recitals, and symphony concerts. That is the ideal scenario to become a concert artist.

However, we all don't have that opportunity!

So how do those of us that came to music in a more random form pull off a solo career or any career in music?

Desire and perseverance.

My parents worked for a steel company, and though not rich we had a good life. My music experience was private lessons from 4th grade on. Our only music source was AM radio and Perry Como 78 recordings (he was a former barber turned crooner with a television show in the late 50's and early 60's). There were 5 television stations, 1 Classical radio station, no Jazz stations, and lots of 50's R&R and Country Western Music until I got into High School. I studied with a private teacher that worked at the local music store and worked at the local Civic Light Opera until I went to College. That is when my serious study began.

My father died from cancer the week after my high school graduation. My mother told me she would do whatever she could to help me but advised me to try not to hurt myself. My relationship with her was what most likely kept me from hurting myself more. The best start in life is of course to have great parents.

Do you see where I am going with this?

By the time I was in my junior year of College I had finally developed a deep love of music. All music, classical, jazz, and pop etc. Though my musical education was mostly classical I had good teachers in college and continued my studies until I

was well in my thirties. Actually I still study today. I guess we never quit trying to be better at our craft. Of course. I was playing professionally by about nineteen or twenty. Those were the days when a teacher could send you to a job if someone was needed.

The years in my life between 20 and 60 were jobs I loved, jobs I hated and even jobs I was not qualified for. And I never felt quite qualified enough to compete. But I did not let fear keep me from playing music, ever. And now when I listen back to my early recordings I love them. I learned on the job.

After that it was more music and less “jobs”. Throughout all those years though I left college, I played in chamber music ensembles, orchestras, did solo performances, opera, jazz bands and anything else I could do to play the music I really loved. I even spent 10 years only playing for fun while I was an entrepreneur in the entertainment industry.

My point is this.

Whether you get to start early and have opportunity, or you start late and have to carve out a niche for yourself, or even if you take a very bumpy road to success, the secret is commitment to a standard of excellence that requires constant attention. One only must have the desire, the will, and spend the time to stay with music.

It starts by practicing one minute a day. See where that takes you. If you belong to music it will embrace you and at the very worst, if you can't make a living at it, you will have found a new love.

Notes

**Choose a career that you gravitate to naturally.
.....Tony Bennett**

Ten Things That Require Zero Talent:

- 1 Being on time**
- 2 Work Ethic**
- 3 Effort**
- 4 Body Language**
- 5 Energy**
- 6 Attitude**
- 7 Passion**
- 8 Being Coachable**
- 9 Doing Extra**
- 10 Being Prepared**

These days many people listen with their eyes..... and videos help the recognition of your persona.....Big Time.....That is huge.....

Additionally... you need a good social media presence..... with a good website..... along with your good website, representation on your management's website.

Soloists..... are what Glen Gould described as “the last blood sport.”

Here are a few alternatives for the musicians that for one reason or another decide not to follow the choices given in this talk, and still stay in a related music business:

composer, copyist, teacher, song writer, pop musician, jazz musician, Broadway musician, country western musician, repair person, repair technician/inventor, mouthpiece maker, audio engineer, audio technician, videographer, recording studio owner, director or technician (TV, Radio, Broadway, Streaming etc.), reed maker, librarian, computer tech, computer music program inventor or tech: and I am sure if you want to stay close to performing you will find a way.

The number one skill all great musicians have mastered is not giving up.

**A smile is the shortest distance between two people.
.....Victor Borge**

When you know a person's music, you basically know the person.

**Win as if you are used to it and lose as if you liked it.
....Isabella Stewart Gardner**

**What you do today can improve all your tomorrows.
.....John Sowaski**

**The way to own a piece of music is.....
Repetition.**

**Instead of focusing on being number 1, attempt to be
one of the best.
.....Anthony Benedetto**

**For a soloist the goal is to create a “one of a kind”
experience. It should be unlike anyone else’s.
....Tony Bennett**

**When you are coming up it is important to keep in mind
the difference from being a successful artist and being a
commercial success.
....Tony Bennett**

**Practice and hope , but never hope more than you
practice.
Kal Opperman**

**You have to pay the piper
To call the tune.**

**The measure of a man is what he will do knowing he
gets nothing in return.**

....Jim Polaski

**If you fail, never give up, because F.A.I.L means,
First Attempt in Learning.**

**The meaning of life is finding your gift, the purpose of
life is to give it away.**

..... Pablo Picasso

**Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know
nothing about.**

Be kind.....ALWAYS

.....Ron Colvard

**Artists are people driven by the tension between the
desire to communicate and the desire to hide.**

.....D.W. Winnicot

**When you are yourself, you automatically become
different than everyone else.**

..Tony Bennett