



The Real Reason We Play Our Instruments

Did you ever play or hear music so beautiful that it sent shivers down your spine, made you cry or give you goose pimples? WHY?

Music has the uncanny ability to inspire feelings and emotions through sound. Happiness, Joy, Sorrow, and Sadness are suggested by the composer, realized by the musician, and finally conveyed to the audience.

Q. Why do we play our instruments?

A. Because of the musical experiences we get from playing our instrument!

Express Yourself

How can we communicate our musicality to the audience?

- Define the phrases (like a sentence in English, it has a beginning, middle and end)
- Can you communicate the shape of the line?
 - Where does the line go?
 - When is the most intense point of the phrase?
- Try to play the song ‘happy’ then ‘sad’
 - How were the dynamics, tempo, air flow, tonguing, tempo changing?
- ‘Tell’ a story with your instrument.
- Does your sound compliment the desired emotion or idea?
 - Example: If you think the opening of a phrase sounds like fairies dancing on a leaf, is it appropriate to use a heavy, dark sound, or a light transparent sound?
- Listen to Frank Sinatra and other famous opera singers.
 - How did they deliver the musical line?
- Listen to your favorite recordings? How was the musician able to convey their emotions?

Try It!

Tape record your playing, play it for others. Can they describe the feelings you were trying to convey? If not, try again and always critique your playing. Playing musically can take many months or years to develop your music voice on a piece.

It's not about the notes (they're expected to be played well) It's ALL about the MUSIC!