

THE FLUTE STREET JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLUTE STUDIO

TONYWATSON.ORG

Upcoming Events

FIELD TRIP!

MARCH 21, 2020

11:00

Peter and the Wolf
with the
Louisville Orchestra
and

Squallis Puppeteers

Brown Theater
315 W. Broadway
Louisville, 40202

SPRING ENSEMBLE CONCERT

APRIL 18, 2020

10:00-12:00

DOUGLASS LOOP
FARMERS MARKET
2005 Douglass Boulevard
Louisville, 40205

SPRING SOLO RECITAL

MAY 3, 2020

3:00

Douglass Boulevard
Christian Church
2005 Douglass Boulevard
Louisville, 40205



FEATURED FLUTIST

DEVEN CHANG

Deven is a sophomore at Floyd Central High School where he plays in the Floyd Central Band. Before moving to Floyd County, Deven played in the Central Kentucky Youth Orchestra. When Deven isn't playing flute, he enjoys earth space science and playing video games.

CONFESSION OF A MUSIC TEACHER

I often say that I chose the wrong professions as both a musician and teacher. I am very much an introvert and for an introvert, choosing to be an active performing musician would seem to be an act of self-inflicted psychological torture. In her book, *Quiet*, Susan Cain points out that teaching is one of the most difficult and draining professions an introvert could choose. So, being a music teacher? What was I thinking?

Usually, when I have the opportunity to speak with parents and students, I try to say something about the value of music instruction. But, you already know the value of music instruction and that is why you are receiving this newsletter. You don't need to read all the ways that playing a musical instrument enhances a child's development (or an adult's development, for that matter).

So, instead of arguing the importance of music education and citing research about the impact music study has on brain development or the correlation between playing a musical instrument and high academic achievement, I have a confession to make--not the one about being an introvert. This is something that goes right to the essence of being a musician.

Some days, when I go home, after teaching three or four or five classes and half a dozen individual lessons, I don't want to practice. Some days, I just want to sit in my back yard and watch the birds at the feeder; or go for a ride on my bike; or read a book; or go get ice cream; or sit on my sofa with my cats and watch Jeopardy. (Sometimes they make me feel not so smart--not my cats, but the contestants on Jeopardy.)

Anyway, with so many other inviting things to do, sometimes I just really don't want to practice. But, I *do* practice. Even after playing flute for something like 45 years, I still practice nearly every day for an hour to three hours a day. Why on earth, after all that time, would you need to keep practicing so much? If you need to practice that much, you must not be very good. Well, as it turns out, the better you get, the more you must practice in order to maintain skills and continue to progress.

There is a well-known anecdote about Pablo Casals, the great cellist. After retiring from public performance, he continued to practice intensively five to six hours a day. One of his students asked him: Maestro, you are the greatest cellist ever to live; you don't perform publicly anymore; you are over ninety years old; why do you continue practicing so hard? Casals' reply: "I think I am making progress. I think I see improvement."

Even though I get very tired; and even though I don't really want to; and even though there are so many other things I would like to do; and even though I think I already play pretty well after all these years; I still practice. And here's the best part: Once I get started practicing, I remember *why* I practice: I think I am making progress. I think I see improvement. And that makes me feel good. I hope each of you continues to make progress. I hope you continue to see improvement. And I hope you feel good about it.



The Flute Studio Ensemble performed for the residents at Atria St. Matthews on December 7th.

If you are looking for a new flute, check out this lovely one at the Flute Center of New York. Only \$55,000.

More pictures at: www.flutes4sale.com/search?q=lunn*

