

BEAUTY FROM THE BEGINNING

Frank Ticheli

Yo Yo Ma:

“I think that a lot young musicians are incredibly well-trained to do fabulous things. The question I ask myself and others every day is, ‘What is it for?’ It sounds like a silly question but it’s actually hard to answer.”

“What is music making for?”

- To make us smarter?
- To foster self-esteem, discipline, self-sacrifice for a greater good?
- To earn high contest ratings?
- To improve technique / musical achievement for its own sake?

- Beauty

How do we keep our students inspired by music's beauty?

LOOKING INWARD

- Are we still learning?
- Do we still find ways to improve our conducting? Our teaching?
- Are we still feeding our love for music?

LOOKING OUTWARD

Zoltan Kodaly on Repertoire: “Children should be taught with only the most musically valuable material. For the young, only the best is good enough.”

- If Kodaly is correct, then how can we (composers and music teachers alike) achieve this aim for students from the very beginning of their musical lives?

[Performance — from *Making Music Matter*, Lessons 1 & 2]

<http://www.makingmusicmatterbook1.com>

- Can students be inspired by tasting music that is technically beyond them?

[Performance — #16, *Amazing Grace* from MMM, Book 1]

- Are we comfortable “being” the music?

Teddy Roosevelt: “No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.”

- If yes, does that transfer to our students?

[Performance — #23, *Dancing on Air*, from MMM, Book 1]

- Do we create a collaborative environment in rehearsals?
- Do we tend to conduct the ensemble, or individuals?
- Do we devote time to improving students' ears?

Returning to Yo Yo Ma:

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**[Closing Performance — #18, *A Peaceful Moment*,
from MMM, Book 1]**