

Turning Your Passion into a Profession

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“Genius is eternal patience.”

-Michelangelo

1. It's a journey, not a destination.
2. Learn from nature...organisms that adapt, survive.
3. Nobody asked you to lead.
4. If you are having a good time, tell your face!
5. Our ability to sustain...to keep the passion alive.
6. We don't recognize what we have until we lose it.
7. Teach students from where they are...not where you are.
8. The game is played by those who show up.
9. Not everybody like bananas.
10. Make lots of mistakes...once!
11. People don't get burned out, they just forget to “re-fuel”.
12. Remain upbeat!
13. Don't just read the book...live it!
14. The world isn't perfect, but it is correct.
15. Be true to yourself.
16. Do whatever it takes to get the job done.
17. Don't lose your sense of humor.
18. If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat.
19. Embrace dissonance.
20. Be a problem solver.
21. Learn the word “GOOD”.
22. Say the second thing that comes into your mind.
23. Remember the five food groups.
24. Dance with them that “brung ya”.
25. When forced to change, focus on what you will gain, not lose.
26. Communication is inevitable.
27. Change is immediate, growth takes time.
28. The tree always grows to the sunshine.
29. Always have the next level.
30. You are only worth what you give away.
31. Be careful of the “Grass is Greener” Syndrome.

32. Disagree without being disagreeable.
33. Be collegial even if you can't be congenial.
34. Adapt, don't always adopt.
35. School – don't scold.
36. Inside every chunk of marble is a statue.
37. Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you will always be right.
38. It's not the "what" that counts, it's the "why!"
39. The "what" is not the "how". Learn as many "hows" as you can.
40. It's a people business.
41. Every year I am one year older, they aren't!
42. Beware of negative energy fields.
43. Learn the word NO!
44. FLUSH!
45. Your job is a job, not a life sentence.
46. Discipline yourself.
47. Suspend judgment
48. One brick at a time.
49. Say "please" and "thank you."
50. Most overnight sensations take 10 to 15 years.

CHARLES T. MENGhini is President, Professor of Music and Director of Bands at VanderCook College of Music. Charlie frequently serves as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and has actively worked with over 500 school and community ensembles from 25 states as well as Canada, Japan and Australia. He has conducted all-state ensembles in Wisconsin, North Dakota, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Nebraska and New York and has presented numerous clinics at the Midwest clinic in Chicago and state music educators in-services from coast to coast. Charlie is also co-author of **the Essential Elements 2000 Band Method**, published by the Hal Leonard corporation and serves as a member of the Board of Advisors to the "Instrumentalist" magazine.